Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

Do you and your loved one plan to stay in, eat out, or do a little of both this Valentine's Day?

Stay in	60
Eat out	24
A little of both	41

Sunday, February 14, 2010

INSIDE

Hot Bodies

Eighteen-year-olds Diana Jean Castro and Jemenniel Recorte emerged winners in the first-ever Marianas Bikini Open competition.

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Deadly Attack

A bomb detonated in a crowded bakery popular with foreigners in western India killing nine people and wounding 57.

Asia...Page 15

Networks Criticized

NBC and other networks were criticized Saturday for broadcasting the disturbing video of a Georgian luger who died after flying off the track and slamming into a steel beam during an Olympic training run.

Life & Style...Page 20

10 areas of concerns but Tinian Chamber of Commerce supports military buildup

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Tinian Chamber of Commerce has formally expressed its support to the military investment on Tinian in connection with the massive troop buildup in the Marianas, but it has pointed out 10 areas of concerns, including limited economic impact, only a few local jobs to be generated, and periodic limited access to beach sites, other tourism related sites, and cattle grazing land.

In a 12-page position paper and official comments on the draft environmental impact statement for the Guam and CNMI military relocation, the Chamber said its comments are meant to "constructively point out unintentional consequences caused by the military's proposed action" on the draft EIS.

Mendiola-Long

Feb. 17 is the deadline for submitting comments on the draft EIS.

The Chamber, which has over 50 active members on Tinian, also offered "solutions" to meet the expectations of businesses and residents on the island.

Phillip Mendiola-Long, president of the Tinian Chamber of Commerce, said Tinian has endured over 30 years of pent

See TINIAN on Page 4

Rota averts further food crisis

As ship finally makes it to port and offloads 31 containers of goods

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A total of 31 containers of goods arrived at the Rota seaport at past 8am yesterday or 55 days after the last shipment, stemming the shortage of food and other basic consumer goods due to rough waters that made it impossible for Saipan Shipping Co. Inc.'s only available vessel to enter the island's port, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

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FOR PROSPERITY

Members of the Chinese Association of Saipan take turns performing a lion dance which is believed to bring prosperity and good luck, as part of yesterday's celebration of the Chinese New Year in the lobby of Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan. In Chinese Zodiac, 2010 is the Year of the Tiger, traditionally associated with big changes and social upheaval.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CUC doubles reconnection fee for water customers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. raised the existing charge it collects for water customers who want their waterline reconnected.

In a notice published last Friday, CUC indicated that a new rate of $60 will be collected as reconnection fee for water services starting last Wednesday, Feb. 10.

CUC announces that the new reconnection charge for water service was assessed pursuant to the CUC Water Services Regulations pertaining to the restoration

See CUC on Page 4

Bellas files report confirming donation of $625K trust funds to 14 organizations. PAGE 2

8-hour across-the-board salary cut approved for CPA. **PAGE 3**

Local

Bellas files report confirming donation of $625K trust funds to 14 organizations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Garment Workers Trust Fund chair Timothy Bellas has filed an interim report to federal court confirming disbursement of $625,000 trust funds donated to 14 non-profit organizations.

In his recent interim report filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Bellas attached photo copies of the 14 checks constituting the complete list of the checks received by representatives of the various charitable institutions as previously approved by the court.

Bellas said the recipients are those mentioned in the fourth interim accounting that GWTF filed on Jan. 13, 2010 and approved by the court.

GWTF approved disbursement of the remaining trust funds in the $20-million settlement of the class suit against the garment industry to 14 of the 18 charitable requests made to the GWFT for donations.

Bellas

According to GWTF's report, Karidat and the American Red Cross received the biggest amounts—$125,000 and $100,000 respectively.

The other donations include $85,000 to the Micronesian Legal Services, $60,000 to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, $50,000 to Pet Assistance and Welfare Services, and $30,000 to Center for Living Independently in CNMI.

The Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., Northern Marianas Trade Institute, and The Family Wellness Organization received $25,000 each.

GWTF also donated $20,000 each to NMI Council for Humanities, Saipan Swim Club, and Whispering Palms School. The Saipan Southern High School received $15,000.

GWTF disapproved donations requested by the Citizens to Change Article XII, Green Meadow School's PTA Association, MDX Amateur Radio Club, and NMI Swimming Federation.

The former Garment Oversight Board established the Garment Workers Trust Fund. GOB, then chaired by Bellas and two other members, was set up pursuant to the settlement agreement in the class action against the garment industry. Munson closed GOB in October 2008 and thereafter GWTF was formed.

Bellas also chairs GWTF. The other trustees are former California Supreme Court justice Cruz Reynoso and former Washington State Supreme Court chief justice Richard Guy.

In a last-ditch effort, seven persons purporting to be acting pro se (without a lawyer) last month filed motions to stop GWTF from donating $625,000 in left over funds from the settlement.

But U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson denied the motions.

"There simply is no excuse for a last-minute filing that essentially asks the court to re-open the entire eligibility process and start all over again," said Munson in his order denying the workers' motion for a temporary restraining order and a motion for a preliminary injunction.

Munson pointed out that the 9-year-old litigation has to end at some point and that point has been reached here, after years of court-monitoring.

Humanities Council sponsors digital photo project

High school students on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian are being given the chance to record their perceptions of the community thanks to a three-week program sponsored by the NMI Council for the Humanities.

"My Place in the CNMI" will teach participants how to use the medium of digital photography to document, and thereby convey to others, what they think comprises the essence of their community.

The program is being facilitated by Dr. Dirk HR Spennemann and is supported in part by a "We the People" grant awarded to the Council by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Participants will attend two workshops over the course of the project.

The first workshop will introduce participants to the project and to the concepts of community photography and the principles of composition, lighting, and camera and digital management.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
NMI Council for the Humanities' "My Place in the CNMI" program hopes to teach participants how to use the medium of digital photography to document what they think comprises the essence of their community.

The second workshop will teach students basic post-processing skills and digital darkroom techniques.

In between workshops, participants will document their community through a series of digital images and work on enhancing them through their newly-learned digital darkroom skills.

These will include each photographer's family, village, island, and the Commonwealth as a whole. Students will also be asked to consider future developments in the Commonwealth and then attempt to convey them through digital imagery.

On Feb. 27, a panel judges will review the digital images produced by the student photographers.

Winning entries will be displayed at a public exhibition that will open at the CNMI Museum of History and Culture on March 3.

All images produced by this project will be posted on a special project website (http://myplacecnmi.org). This website will be online for at least two years and will allow student photographers to share their work with a worldwide audience.

Spennemann is a professor in cultural heritage studies at Charles Sturt University in Albury, Australia. He is also a photographic artist with several exhibitions in museums and galleries in Australia, the CNMI, and Alaska. ***(PR)***

H1N1 Vaccine School Vaccination Campaign

Students and school staff who want to receive their H1N1 vaccine for the first time can also get in line!

Consent forms are availale at the school office. Turn in signed consent forms back to school before your vaccination date!

School Vaccination Schedule

February 16th - Tuesday - 8 am
- Mount Carmel School
- Saipan Community School

February 17th - Wednesday - 8 am
- Calvary Christian Academy
- Marianas Baptist Academy
- Saipan International School

February 19th - Friday - 8 am
- Chacha Junior High School
- Kagman High School

February 23rd - Tuesday - 8 am
- Marianas High School

February 24th - Wednesday - 8 am
- Saipan Southern High School
- Ladera International School

February 25th - Wednesday - 8 am
- Hopwood Junior High School

Rota, Tinian, and Private School Schedules are being finalized

DPH will be back at the schools to administer the 2nd dose of the H1N1 vaccine to students 9 years old and younger and for students and staff who have not received it.

The H1N1 vaccine is safe, effective, and your best protection against the flu this year.

No consent form, No Vaccine!

Visit any health clinic to get vaccinated.

For more information, visit the Department of Public Health's H1N1 website at H1N1dph.gov.mp or email fluwatchcnmi@gmail.com

8-hour across-the-board salary cut approved for CPA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority approved on Friday an 8-hour across-the board-salary cut on all its employees as a result of low revenue projections for both its seaports and airports this fiscal year.

The salary reduction will take effect on April 1 through the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30 and would include all key positions such as the executive director.

In a special meeting last Friday, finance committee board chairman Barrie Toves made the recommendation after assessing that the option is the only way, at present, for CPA to comply with the required 1.25 bond service ratio.

Saipan Tribune learned that CPA's projected airport revenue is $10.4 million, while $6.7 million forecast revenue for seaport for FY 2010.

CPA is making money on fees collected from signatory airlines, from tenants, and concessionaires at the airport facilities, while seaport revenues are sourced from the wharfage fees it collects from the use of ports facilities.

The total revenue projection of $17.1 million is the amount used by CPA in its operation and personnel cost.

Toves disclosed that if a salary reduction will not be enforced, CPA would continue to be non-compliant with the bond indenture agreements for both airport and seaports.

It was recently disclosed by the bond trustee, Bank of Guam, that CPA is on the trustee's watch list as a result of its inaction to the concerns and requirements of the indenture agreements.

CPA board acting chairman Thomas "Kiyu" Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune* that although the decision is effective April 1, CPA will still assess its financial status between now and April 1.

He admitted that the recent announcement of Delta Airlines' flight reduction to the CNMI was excluded in the assessment made by the committee.

"This is based on the projections that we've been getting. Now that Delta has announced its intention to reduce flights again, that factor was not included in the projection presented to us," Villagomez said.

The board has mandated the management to submit a monthly or periodic financial report to closely monitor the CPA performance.

Villagomez said the monthly financial report of the management is vital in the decision to be made by the board if there is a need to take more steps in order to survive.

It was learned that except for ports police and Airport Rescue Firefighters, all employees are operating on an 80-hour work schedule. Ports police and ARFF, which operate with a 96-hour schedule, will have their hours reduced to 88 hours bi-weekly, also starting on April 1.

According to CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, additional or new revenue for the ports authority is the only way the board may reconsider the salary reduction.

"If we can increase revenue to warrant keeping the 80 hours, we will do so. But the plan for now is to take an across the board cut on all departments starting in April through end of the fiscal year," he said.

As of Friday, Deleon Guerrero said CPA has 192 employees in three islands.

It was in fiscal year 1998 when CPA employees were reduced of their work hours for 10 months. After almost nine years, the agency was subjected again to the same 72-hour work schedule for more than a year.

This will be the third time ports authority will implement salary reduction to all employees.

HAITI DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Senior Pastor An Yeol Oh, along with other church and community leaders of Korean Presbyterian Church of Saipan, present to the American Red Cross-NMI a check for $5,194 to be used in Haiti to assist with emergency relief efforts. Red Cross Disaster Services director J.D. Tenorio expressed his profound gratitude for the generous support of those in need. "The relief work in Haiti will be ongoing for months and years to come, so this generous support will definitely be used to help those families affected by this tragic earthquake" said Tenorio.

Ex-convict gets 123-day jail term over Upper Miha fight

An ex-convict facing charges over a drinking session that ended up in a fight at the Upper Miha in Garapan has entered a guilty plea.

Cookson Ham, 25, signed a plea agreement with the CNMI government. He pleaded guilty to assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman accepted the plea agreement and Ham's guilty plea.

Wiseman sentenced Ham to 364 days in jail, all suspended except for 123 days, for assault and battery.

The judge gave the defendant credit for the time he already served at the Department of Corrections since his arrest on Oct. 4, 2009 through Feb. 3, 2010.

For disturbing the peace, Wiseman sentenced Ham to six months in prison, all suspended.

The judge placed Ham on supervised probation for two years and seven months.

The defendant was required to perform 100 hours of community work service, pay restitution to all victims in this case, and pay a $100 fine and $25 court assessment fee.

Ham is prohibited from consuming or possessing any alcoholic beverages during the probation period.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Ham with assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Ham and counsel, assistant public defender Richard Miller, signed a plea agreement with the CNMI government represented by assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher.

Ham pleaded guilty to assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. The assault with a dangerous weapon charge was dismissed as part of the agreement.

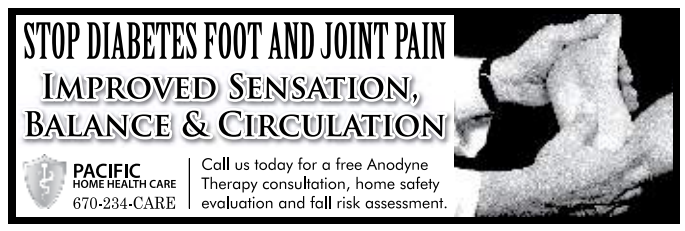
According to the agreement, on Oct. 3, 2009 Ham assaulted Matthew A. Ingisair and disturbed the peace of Darling S. Castro.

Police investigation showed that Ham and some people were drinking and Ham later punched the face of Ingisair.

Ham then started breaking the window louvers in one of the housing units. He also struck Ingisair with louvers on the head and body, causing injuries to the head.

Police said a woman was also injured during the attack. It was the third time police responded to the scene when Ham was finally arrested.

In June 2006, Ham was sentenced to 68 days in prison for stealing a wallet containing $235 from a poker player. In January 2006, he was arrested for domestic violence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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★★★ATTENTION★★★

CNMI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES

As of January 1, 2010, your Group Life Insurance Benefit offered through the CNMI Government is provided by Individual Assurance Company.

All eligible CNMI Government employees and retirees must re-enroll by February 26, 2010.

You may re-enroll through your Human Resources office. IAC will also be facilitating re-enrollment meetings at the office of Don Barcinas beginning **Tuesday, February 16, 2010.**

Donald C. and Tina O. Barcinas
General Agents, Individual Assurance Company
Cabrera Center, First Floor, Suite 106
Beach Road, Garapan
670.234.0960

IAC
Individual Assurance Company, Life, Health & Accident

Fitial off to Washington, DC for NGA meet

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will be leaving for Washington, D.C. on Friday to attend the Feb. 20 to 22 National Governors Association Winter Meeting wherein he is expected to bring up the issue of considering the CNMI as a relocation site for up to 4,000 U.S. troops from the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Japan.

This number is in addition to the 8,000 Marines that Guam will be hosting as part of the massive buildup in the region.

Fitial will be accompanied by first lady to Josie Fitial to Washington, D.C., said Teresa Kim, legal counsel for Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

The three-day 2010 NGA Winter Meeting will bring together governors of U.S. states, commonwealths, and territories at the JW Marriott Hotel.

Nearly 50 governors are expected to participate in the meeting, which will include sessions with President Barack Obama, members of his Cabinet, academic leaders, business executives, and other experts for discussions on a host of issues and challenges facing states, said the NGA in a statement.

States' role in health care reform—particularly in ensuring a high-quality, efficient, and coordinated health care system—will be the key topic on the governors' meeting agenda this year.

In addition, governors will explore the future of the nation's surface transportation policy and finance system, the state-federal partnership under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, reshaping public health and preparedness for the 21st century, advancing a green economy and homeland security during five committee sessions.

On the night of Feb. 21, governors and their spouses will travel to the White House for a black-tie evening with the president and the first lady. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

2 more defendants in human smuggling case ordered released

The federal court on Friday ordered the temporary release of two men who were among 24 persons charged for allegedly trying to unlawfully enter Guam from Saipan through a boat.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Wiseman ordered that defendants Shi Guang Li and Yong Jun Li be released on $2,500 unsecured bond.

Wiseman imposed some conditions such as not leaving Saipan and not changing address without court's permission.

The judge required Shi Li and Yong Li to stay away from boats and stay at least 200 feet away from the ocean or any part of the ocean.

Shi Li and Yong Li, through their respective counsels Bruce Berline and G. Anthony Long, moved to modify the court's previous "no bail at this time" order.

The two defendants were among 24 Chinese nationals arrested recently by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents for allegedly trying to unlawfully enter Guam through a boat.

Last Wednesday, Wiseman ordered the temporary release of Qingmei Cheng upon posting $1,000 cash and $9,000 unsecured bond. Cheng, a masseuse of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, was also among the 24 defendants.

Wiseman imposed many conditions for Cheng's temporary liberty such as not leaving Saipan without court's permission and staying away from the ocean except for work or business.

Wiseman set the jury trial for May 10, 2010 at 9am.

Last Wednesday, Wiseman also allowed the temporary release of the five defendants in the other alleged human smuggling case.

The five defendants, all Chinese nationals, were arrested by federal agents on Rota last Jan. 30 for allegedly attempting to unlawfully enter Guam by boarding two inflatable boats. The defendants pleaded not guilty. Their jury trial was set for April 12, 2010 at 9am. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

ROTA

From Page 1

A 50-lb. sack of rice, for example, cost Rota residents $50 to $60 instead of only about $45 because of additional air freight costs from Guam or Saipan when shipment of goods through sea vessel stopped since the Christmas holiday.

Some Rota residents also relied on their relatives and friends from Saipan or Guam to send them rice and other food items through commercial airlines to weather the food crisis.

But retail stores on Rota are not expected to immediately fill up their empty shelves of basic goods such as rice until the newly arrived containers are offloaded, inspected and turned over to consignees.

"We have run out of rice, canned goods and even chips. Our store is almost empty now," Liza Camacho, a cashier at Lucky Store in Songsong, said in a phone interview yesterday afternoon. Lucky Store also has a branch in Sinapalo.

Camacho, however, said they may be able to get their goods from the long-awaited shipment by middle or later this week.

Alex Sablan, marketing manager at Saipan Shipping Co. Inc., said the vessel entered the Rota seaport at 8:15am yesterday.

"We discharged 31 containers which was the accumulated total over the 54 days we were not able to enter Rota due to adverse weather conditions. We average about six containers a voyage into Rota every other week," Sablan said in an e-mail response to questions.

The last shipment to Rota was on Dec. 21, 2009.

Sablan said the goods shipped in Saipan Shipping's vessel service "do not cost any more to deliver than is set in our tariff."

Offloading, inspections

Connie Taisacan, a customs inspector at the Rota Division of Customs Services, said in a separate phone interview yesterday that they started the vessel clearance yesterday and will begin the clearance of containers today.

"We began offloading Sunday and the containers will be released and inspected Monday. Because there are a lot of containers, we may not be able to finish offloading and inspections right away," said Taisacan, who will personally inspect the containers today along with quarantine inspector Joseph Atalig.

The containers that arrived included 20- and 40-foot containers.

Taisacan said many Rota residents ended up paying $50 to $60 for a 50-lb. sack of rice because of additional air freight cost.

"We didn't have a choice but to bring home rice through plane from Guam or Saipan. Other families had to ask for their families on Saipan or Guam to buy them rice and have them brought here by plane. Normally a 50-lb. sack of rice here costs some $45," she said.

Long-term goal: $25M harbor project

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said yesterday that the arrival of the shipment was a "great relief" to residents of Rota.

"Hopefully thus will not be repeated," he said.

Manglona said the larger challenge is to improve the Rota harbor or build a new one.

Sablan said Saipan Shipping is encouraged to hear that $25 million is proposed to improve the Ports of Rota.

"A breakwater will go a long way to ensure the economy of Rota remains viable and the people of Rota are assured timely delivery of goods regardless of a seasonal weather trough. Ninety-two percent of all goods are delivered through our sea ports. They serve as our lifeline for all communities," he added.

Rota does not have a breakwater to allow ships to enter the port during all weather conditions.

Rota Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola wrote Gov. Benigno R. Fitial a letter on Thursday, asking for help in seeking a "more lasting solution" to the problem.

He said the inability of the current shipping vessel to call port "is mainly caused by the fact that a barge is being used which requires a very calm ocean condition in order to enter the port." The other problem, he said, is the shipping company's schedule.

Dry dock

Sablan said Saipan Shipping should have its chartered vessel MV *Super Shuttle* return from dry dock by the end of February.

Because of the MV *Supper Shuttle* issue, Saipan Shipping had to use a tugboat towing a barge, making it difficult to enter Rota's seaport especially on rough seas or adverse weather conditions.

Sablan said delays at dry dock were caused by a severe typhoon season in the Philippines from August to December which had typhoons almost every other week during this period.

"We do not anticipate another dry docking for five years as is required by stringent vessel Class regulation," he said.

Sablan also said that Saipan Shipping service *Super Shuttle* will make it easier to enter Rota but may still be restricted at times when adverse weather conditions are brought on by weather trough that bring high trade winds and sea conditions from September through March annually.

"Saipan Shipping Company wants to assure the people of Rota that we will continue to do everything in our power to serve their shipping needs. Our vessel service is scheduled to arrive on Rota during the weekend due to transshipment Rota cargo arriving off of Horizon and Matson on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively," he added.

CUC

From Page 1

of service.

CUC's customer service employees confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* last Friday that the new rate has been in effect and reflects an increase from the existing charge of $30 it collects from water customers.

Saipan Tribune tried to contact CUC executive director Tony Muna but e-mails and phone calls were not answered since Friday.

It was learned that the $60 reconnection charge is now the same level as what CUC collects from power customers who wish to reconnect their power line.

However, CUC will waive one reconnection fee for both power and water lines if accounts will be settled on the same day.

In the same announcement, CUC said that if a customer's electric and water services are both disconnected, one reconnection charge of $60 will be waived if both electric and water services are settled for reconnection on the same day.

An employee of the utilities firm also disclosed that lines will only be reconnected if all unpaid obligations will be settled by the said customers.

Records from CUC showed that there are 10,000 water customers on island. It has 146 wells, 16 storage tanks and reservoirs, and 18 booster stations.

CUC earlier disclosed that it is losing a significant volume of water production for many years.

It claimed that for every 10 gallons of pumped water only four to five gallons are being billed while the rest is considered "loss" due to some factors. The "unbilled usage" or stolen amounts from the CUC account were among the major reasons for big losses, followed by the water leaks found in some customers.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial put CUC in state of emergency since 2008 as a result of poor condition of power, water, and waste water services.

TINIAN

From Page 1

up expectations for the military's use and development of the 18,000 acres of leased land on Tinian.

Some two-thirds of the lands on Tinian are leased by the U.S. military, and battalion level non-live fire training areas already exist and are used on these leased parcels.

Because Guam cannot accommodate all training for the relocating Marines from Okinawa, Japan, the U.S. military looks at Tinian to provide opportunities for training groups of 200 Marines or larger due to greater land availability.

The proposed actions on Tinian include firing ranges for rifle known distance, automated combat pistol, platoon battle course, field firing, and airspace use.

In a Feb. 12 position paper and comments on the draft EIS, the Chamber said it disagrees with the determination of "less than significant" for impacts to the roads and harbors as a result of the proposed action on Tinian.

The Chamber said there are no studies or compaction tests offered to determine if in fact the roads built in 1944 can withstand the additional and heavier loads required for equipment used in the range.

The business group added that the draft EIS failed to identify which specific Tinian roads would be accessed or used when moving personnel and equipment from the airport or the harbor.

It also said there's no real live fire tests offered to measure noise impact, even as the draft EIS said there is no noise impact associated with the proposed action on Tinian.

Recreational resources

The Chamber said the draft EIS omitted significant recreational resources that will be impacted.

They include Unai Dankulu/Long Beach which consists of over 10 beaches spread over a distance of 1.5 kilometers, and Unai Masalok which consists of three beaches spread over a distance of 0.5 kilometers.

"Access would be impeded, recreational opportunities would be reduced, conflicts would be created and physical deterioration would occur. Unai Dankulo is the longest beach on Tinian and is a major tourist and resident recreational spot," the business group said.

Since the draft EIS identifies additional significant impact on Tinian due to the introduction of hazardous materials and waste, it would seem appropriate that the draft EIS offer as a mitigation measure the hazardous materials cleanup of the Tinian mortar range, it added.

Under the draft EIS, military training activity would be scheduled and notice provided in newspapers and via public service announcements on radio and television at least a week prior to any training event.

But the Chamber said a one-week notice window is not enough time for tourists and residents to address their scheduling of activities for use of the North Field areas.

The Chamber also said that the draft EIS failed to identify what range training area policies are envisioned for potential civilian access and use of the historical and recreational areas located in the RTA.

Limited economic impact

Liberty for training Marines is currently not guaranteed for regular training exercises under the current description of the proposed action.

Liberty may be available to the advanced teams before and after training exercises, though these advanced teams would be much smaller and thus have a lesser economic impact.

The draft EIS said to enhance economic benefits and compensate for economic costs for local businesses, the Marine Corps would consider granting trainees some liberty at the end of every training mission so that they might spend money in local establishments and interact with local residents.

The Chamber recommends that the draft EIS implement liberty time within the proposed training schedule and measure economic impact of allowing 200 to 400 military personnel to have liberty in downtown Tinian.

The business group also recommends mitigation for the loss of Tinian economic tourism activity by requiring the U.S. military to pay for the development of a small museum dedicated to Tinian history.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz jointly asked Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to help build a museum or visitor's center that will depict Tinian's role in World War II, even as a "Manhattan Project National Historical Park" system is being created.

Tinian was the staging area for the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end the war.

Grazing permits, jobs

The U.S. military would end the grazing rights to build the proposed ranges on Tinian, causing significant adverse economic impact. There are 35 grazing permits to be affected by this.

The Chamber said this is unfair and unacceptable, and recommends that the military offer help in grazing relocation efforts.

The draft EIS also said there is a "possibility" that 12 to 15 Tinian residents could be employed as security guards, grounds keeping crew, and sanitation workers to support the proposed action, a "less than significant impact."

"One must admit that the proposed military action and the possible environmental consequences is already a 'hard sell' to the people of Tinian, yet not enough thought or concern was given to the people of Tinian in this DEIS," said the Chamber.

It added that that the draft EIS does not identify high-paying jobs such as range management positions.

The $15- to $20-billion military buildup in Guam and Tinian involves the relocation of some 8,000 Marines to Guam, and this still excludes thousands of family members and workers needed.

2 resolutions honor Rota sons

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) has introduced two resolutions honoring the late Albert S. Toves Jr. and the late Fidel A. Mendiola for their contributions not only to Rota but to the CNMI.

House Commemorative Resolution 17-2 not only conveys sympathy to Toves' family on his untimely passing on Feb. 15, 2009, but also recognizes his work as an artist, among other things.

Toves is most popular for his "sand art" depicting the culture and lifestyle of ancient Chamorros, as well as island scenery. He also incorporated into his artwork the conservation and preservation of wildlife resources such as the Marianas Crow and the Marianas fruit bat as a reminder that they are becoming extinct and that people should be conscious about their conservation and preservation so that the future generations may continue to enjoy their existence.

Santos, in her HCR 17-2, said Toves was also involved in civic and community activities, and participated in many arts festivals, exhibits and festivities throughout the Pacific and Japan.

In 1999, Toves received the "outstanding traditional craftsperson" recognition during the 15th Annual Governor's Art Awards.

"The late Albert S. Manglona Toves Jr. inspired many artists through his craftsmanship and artistry and has provided many valuable services, not only to the people of Rota, but to the entire Mariana Islands and will also be forever remembers for his dedication and commitment in all his endeavors and as a loving and caring father, husband, son, brother and friend," the resolution states.

Santos's HCR 17-3, meanwhile, honors the late Fidel A. Mendiola, who was the first person from Rota to obtain a professional helmsman title with a rank of captain.

Mendiola served as a member of the Rota Municipal Council in 1958 to 1960. He was employed as the port international superintendent of Rota until Nov. 30, 1994 when the position was renamed Rota airport/seaport manager. He retired on May 29, 1998.

As a private entrepreneur, he founded Mendiola Enterprises and FM Enterprises in 1953, and was running the firm until his passing.

MIFICPA tax seminar on Feb 20

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants will conduct a tax seminar on Feb. 20 at the Seaside Hall of the Saipan Grand Hotel. Registration starts at 7:30am.

The tax seminar will cover "Individual Tax Savings Tips for 2009."

Edgar T. Aguilar, manager for Tax Services of Deloitte & Touche LLP, will be the resource person for the seminar.

Participants will have the chance to raise questions on tax matters to maximize money saving measures in filing their 2009 individual and corporate tax returns.

Registration fee per participant will be $12, which covers light breakfast and participant's certificate. Seminar materials will be provided. Renewal of MIFICPA's $5 annual membership dues will be collected on the day of the event only. For new members, the same fee applies.

Seats are limited, so for advance reservation and for more information, contact any of the MIFICPA officers by either text or e-mail: Marlon Estigoy at 789-7943 (marlon@saipan.com); Christy Villaflor at 989-9123 (villaflor_chris@yahoo.com; Aileen Indino at 287-0305 (aileenrindino@yahoo.com); and Melvin Malvar at 789-2101(mjmalvar@yahoo.com). ***(PR)***

Govendo imposes 3-month jail term on man for 'ice' possession

The Superior Court has imposed a 90-day jail term for possession of crystal methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan in 2008.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo sentenced Tong Bo He to five years in prison, all suspended except for 90 days, for two counts of possession of a controlled substance.

Govendo gave the 43-year-old He credit for six days he already served in jail.

He, also known as Brother, was ordered to start serving the jail term on Feb. 20, 2010 at 8am.

After serving the jail term, the defendant will be placed on five years of supervised release.

"Defendant shall depart the CNMI within 60 days of release," said Govendo in a written order.

The judge required the defendant to pay a $25 court assessment fee plus a probation fee.

Govendo ordered that the bail in the amount of $3,000 shall be returned to Ren Yan Hong, who posted the bail for the defendant's temporary liberty.

Govendo said He's passport shall be released to him upon his release from custody.

A review hearing is set for Sept. 2, 2010 at 9am, but the defendant is excused from appearing if he has left the CNMI, the judge said.

The Office of the Attorney General charged He with two counts of trafficking of controlled substance and two counts of illegal possession of controlled substance.

He and counsel, assistant public defender Douglas Hartig, signed a plea agreement with the CNMI government represented by assistant attorney general William Downer.

For pleading guilty to two counts of possession of a controlled substance, the government agreed to dismiss the remaining charges.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, on Nov. 26, 2008, on two separate occasions on Saipan, the defendant intentionally possessed "ice." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Recorte, Castro win Marianas Bikini Open

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eighteen-year-olds Diana Jean Castro and Jemenniel Recorte emerged winners in the first-ever Marianas Bikini Open 2010 competition, besting five other pairs in the event held at Hard Rock Café Saipan last Friday.

The eventual winners, who were among the crowd favorites, also swept a total of nine other special awards that made them strong contenders in the overall competition.

Recorte, aside from the 2010 Mr. Marianas Bikini Open title, also was named recipient of five other special recognitions including Mr. Body Beautiful, King of Hearts, Best in Bikini Wear, Best in Formal Wear, and Best in Costume.

Castro, for her part, was crowned 2010 Miss Marianas Bikini Open and bested other contenders in the Miss Congeniality award, Queen of Hearts, Best in Costume, and Best in Casual Wear categories.

Castro is a senior student of Kagman High School and the daughter of Dina and Jerry Castro.

Because it was her first time joining a competition of this type, she said that bagging the title was unexpected.

"I didn't expect it! But I am so happy and proud. I thought it was just for experience but then it was such a great opportunity," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The titleholder admitted that she gained some valuable experience by joining the competition.

"It boosts my confidence and self-esteem. After this moment, I know I can achieve anything…" she said, adding that she specifically enjoyed the modeling tips she gained from the competition.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Jemenniel Recorte, left, and Diana Jean Castro, right, are named the winners of the Marianas Bikini Open 2010 held Friday night at the at the Had Rock Café Saipan in Garapan on Friday night. Recorte and Castro also bagged several awards at the competition which ended at close to midnight.

Like Castro, the newly crowned Mr. Marianas Bikini Open did not expect to win the overall title.

Recorte is a freshmen liberal arts student at Northern Marianas College. Though he truly enjoyed the whole experience in the competition, Recorte admitted that the result was overwhelming.

"It's my first time in the competition…and I am so happy that I won! But it was truly unexpected for me," he said, adding that he is grateful to the opportunity provided to him by the organizers and supporters of the event.

He vowed to continue his active involvement in community programs that promote the clean environment on the island.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Joshua Wodson is the male first runner-up in the Marianas Bikini Open 2010. He also bagged the photogenic award and the Best in Casual Wear award.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Marilyn Cruz, the female first runner-up in the Marianas Bikini Open 2010, also got the Best in Formal Wear award.

Named first runner-up winners were Joshua Wodson and Marilyn Cruz. Wodson was also the recipient of Mr. Photogenic and Best in Casual Wear awards, while Cruz bagged the Best in Formal Wear award.

Judges hailed Angelo Hernandez and Chrishia Leon Guerrero as the event's second runner-up winners. Leon Guerrero was named Ms. Photogenic and Best in Bikini.

Third runner-up honors went to Polo Salazar and Leslie Elameto, who was also the competition's Ms. Body Beautiful.

Fourth runner-up winners were Kurt Deon Oco and Jessa Castro. Oco was also the contest's Mr. Congeniality awardee.

Fifth runner-up honors went to Jacob Hernandez and Eloisa Alejo.

Event organizer Sharmaine Casquero described the turnout as "overwhelming and successful."

Casquero lauded the participation and involvement of youths and community members in the event that aims to create environmental awareness.

Among the event's guests included the Green Meadows Dance Troupe and the Project Impact.

Proceeds of the competition will be provided to the Marianas Island Nature Alliance.

The six pairs of contestants in the Marianas Bikini Open 2010 parade their costumes during the competition at the Hard Rock Café Saipan in Garapan on Friday night. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CPA honors longtime comptroller

▪ Mafnas retires after 18 years of service

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority last Friday honored its retired comptroller, Frances Mafnas, who served the agency for 18 years.

Acting CPA board chairman Thomas "Kiyu" Villagomez and executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero presented Mafnas a plaque of appreciation in recognition to the valuable service she rendered to the ports authority.

Last Feb. 13 was the former comptroller's last day of work at CPA.

During the special meeting yesterday, the board named newly hired deputy comptroller Derek Sasamoto as the agency's acting comptroller pending the appointment of Mafnas' replacement.

According to board chairman Villagomez, CPA has already announced the job vacancy for the position and which has yielded so far three applicants, including the acting comptroller.

Saipan Tribune learned that prior to becoming comptroller, Mafnas served in an acting capacity since the resignation of George Palican in February 2007.

It was in February 2009 when the board hired David Blake as its comptroller but resigned in July last year.

It was late last year when the board named Mafnas as the agency's permanent comptroller.

CPA earlier admitted that the unstable financial staffing at the agency will affect its bond indenture agreements for both airport and seaports because a permanent comptroller on board was among the requirements. CPA has had difficulty in hiring qualified candidates for the position.

CPA was declared under a state of emergency last year and its management transferred to the executive branch due to bond indenture problems.

Management earlier admitted that one of the main reasons for the resignations and departure of key management people at the agency is the "unattractive salary" offered to them.

CPA provides only up to $70,000 compensation to an employee exempted to the $50,000 salary cap.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero earlier acknowledged the immediate hiring of comptroller and three other key positions not to hamper the agency's operation and performance this fiscal year.

Saipan Tribune learned that besides comptroller, CPA has also been operating without a staff engineer, assistant ports police chief, as well as two flight service attendants on Rota.

Deleon Guerrero admitted the need to fill these vital posts to make sure that lack of manpower will not affect the smooth operation of the agency.

At present, he said the agency has 180 employees currently working in its three airports and seaports.

CCA to maintain services, hope for survivors

The Commonwealth Cancer Association extended its appreciation to all partners, community members, and supporters during its first general membership meeting last Jan. 27, 2010.

In his address, president Alex Sablan, on behalf of the CCA Board of Directors, assured the membership that funds raised in the CNMI will remain in the CNMI to benefit our cancer patients and the community at large through patient services, programs, education and hope.

CCA provides financial assistance to cancer survivors and cancer patients, to include the purchasing of ensure or glucerna milk, adult diapers, bed pads, baby wipes, and other consumables related to the diagnosis, treatment, and comfort measures.

Assistance is also extended to the loaning of hospital bed, oxygen concentrator, suction machine, walker, wheel chair, alternating air mattress, etc. To receive assistance, however, the cancer patient/survivor must be a resident and domicile in the Commonwealth for three or more years, and must present a prescription from the attending physician for the assistance requested.

A heartfelt appeal was made for understanding. "We've heard the call from patients and individuals to increase the amount of financial support. The board's gut-wrenching decision to limit the annual amount to $500 per patient is to ensure we can operate within our annual budget and that we have enough for all," stated Sablan.

"In our effort to provide patients hope, we will be lobbying to ensure the Health Care Decisions Act and the Cancer Registry Act legislation are passed and signed into law," said Sablan.

He further shared the hard work done by the Board members in reorganizing the structure of CCA, which was under the auspices of CHC Volunteers. CCA has since then been licensed as a non-profit association, and subsequently applied with the Internal Revenue Service for the 501©3 status. Through this status, the association can apply for the many grants available to augment the programs and services for the community.

CCA engages and collaborates with other non-profit or government agencies to ensure that cancer awareness information is disseminated regularly at community events. Some activities that CCA is involved with are the annual Kick Butts Day which is tailored for school-age children, Breast, Cervical, and Prostate Cancer awareness months, nutrition Month, the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Campaign and other.

In 2007 and 2008, CCA along with the Department of Public Health Immunization Program, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, Breast and Cervical Screening Program and Stellar Marianas, the HPV committee was able to vaccinate 92 percent of girls in both the public and private schools in the junior high and high schools in the CNMI.

As provided for in the bylaws, the process of election of board members took place. The Board subsequently met and elected the officers, as follows: Alex Sablan, president; Clarence (Bud) White, vice president; Jocelyn Songsong, secretary; Maggie Camacho, treasurer. The other board members include Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero, Bobbie Grizzard, and Robert Torres. Non-voting members are Dr. Jack Hardy as the senior adviser, and Nancy Gottfried as the legal adviser.

The community's participation and commitment are vital to the success towards an effective cancer outreach and support services to cancer survivors and their families. Individuals or organizations interested in volunteering with the CCA are encouraged to call the office at 682-0050, or visit www.cca-marianas.org or send an email to commonwealthcancerassociation@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Commonwealth Cancer Association's newly elected officials pose for a photo. They include: Alex Sablan, president; Clarence "Bud" White, vice president; Jocelyn Songsong, secretary; Maggie Camacho, treasurer. The other board members include Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero, Bobbie Grizzard, Robert Torres (not in picture), senior adviser Dr. Jack Hardy, and legal adviser Nancy Gottfried.

US Coast Guard evacuates *Hou Chun 11* crew

HONOLULU—A Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules aircrew arrived here with two injured crewmembers from the fishing vessel Hou Chun 11 at approximately 10pm Wednesday.

The two injured crewmembers are currently en route to Straub Clinic and Hospital here.

The Air Station Barbers Point crew medically evacuated the injured crewmembers from Christmas Island, Kiribati, at approximately 5pm Wednesday after the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Alex Haley transported the injured to Christmas Island via small boat. According to the crew of the cutter Alex Haley, the remaining crewmembers were assisted off the cutter into a small outrigger and taken to shore.

Two sister ships of the Hou Chun 11 are en route to the scene of the burned vessel and to Christmas Island to pickup the remaining crewmembers.

Hawaii and Alaska-based Coast Guard crews located the 28-member crew of the disabled fishing vessel early Tuesday morning and provided medical care to injured crewmembers during the transit to Christmas Island. The cutter Alex Haley, homeported in Kodiak, Alaska, arrived on scene at approximately 3am Tuesday and rescued the fishing vessel crew, who had abandoned their ship onto life rafts. The Air Station Barbers Point crew remained on scene to coordinate the position of the life rafts. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy aircrews had remained on scene throughout the night Monday to monitor the position of the life rafts.

The cause of the fire remains unknown, but the Coast Guard will continue monitor the situation. ***(PR)***

Healthy Lunch for a cause continues at Fiesta

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan officials turn over a giant $303 check to the Commonwealth Health Center volunteers association as part of its Healthy Lunch for a cause promotion.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan continues its partnership with the Commonwealth Health Center volunteers association to finance its goal to purchase a hyperbaric chamber for the diabetic patients of the hospital.

Another check in the amount of $303 was collected in January, which to date now totals $2,044.

"This partnership began in Sept. 1, 2009. Every time you dine at the Healthy Lunch Buffet at the Chambre Bar, you will have an opportunity to help the CHC volunteers in their fund-raising drive. So, not only do you eat healthy, you are also giving back to the community. Imagine what your $1 can do!" a statement from the hotel read.

Healthy lunch buffet offers different entrée every day to please diners' discriminating palates. For reservations, call F&B office at 233-6414. ***(PR)***

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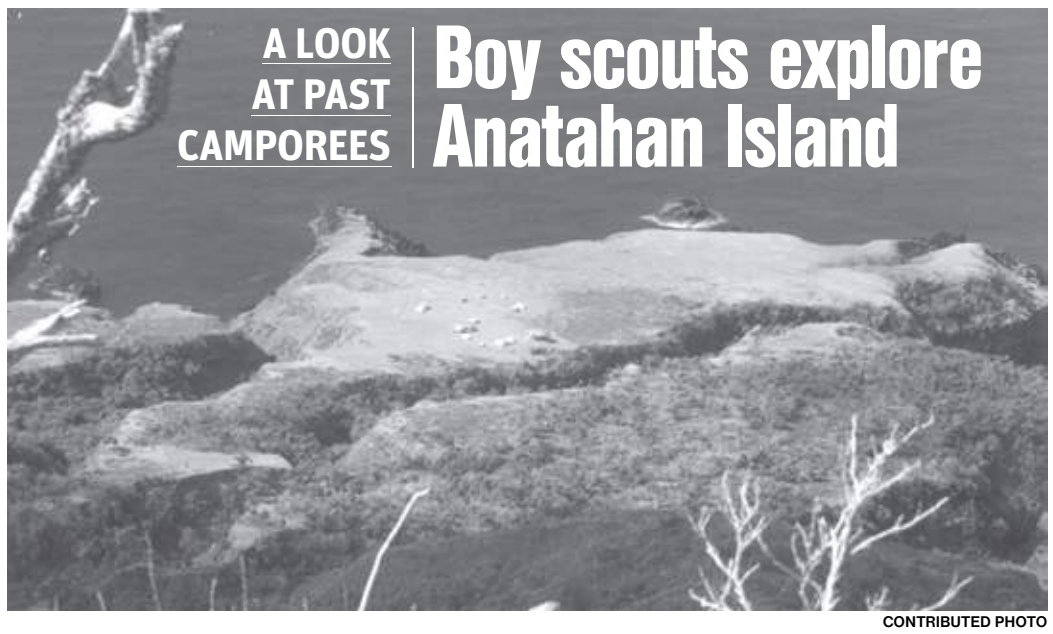
Minimum requirements:

- U.S. citizenship;
- Excellent work ethic;
- Valid CNMI driver's license, insurance, and own working vehicle;
- Flexibility in work schedule;
- Strong communication skills, including ability to read, write, and speak clearly in grammatically-correct English;
- Competence in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook; working knowledge of computers and other office equipment; and
- College AA degree and/or office management experience desirable.

Salary commensurate with experience. Application deadline is **5:00 p.m., Monday, February 22, 2010**. Application forms are available at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office, Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan, or online at www.saipanchamber.com.

A LOOK AT PAST CAMPOREES

Boy scouts explore Anatahan Island



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aerial view of the Boy Scouts' camp site on Anatahan Island.

By OSCAR C. CAMACHO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The author is the Troop Committee chairman for the NMI Boy Scouts. As part of celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, the Saipan Tribune *is publishing a series of articles featuring past camporees and activities of the local boy scouts program. The following is an excerpt of a longer article.*

The talk at the Pala Pala involves homesteading in Anatahan and Tun Benedicto. Mr. P. Guerrero and Mr. Paul Santos scaled and canceled the fish. It was agreed we return at four. It must be four since the adults are anxiously calling the *Challenger* by radio and shouting at the boys to get out of the water and at Happy to come and take us out on his dingy. The *Challenger* is on the radio exclaiming they are to pull the lines up. A smart commend made, giggles follow.

Tony is confronted with his betel nut bringing. Justice asked and to confirm his bringing betel nut and *pupulu* from Saipan to Anatahan and Mr. Ruebenog asks to try one young betel nut. It's prohibited to sell cigarettes to minors, but not chewing tobacco. Tony has Benson and Hedges to chew. Solomon gathers his stones and is wrapping them in his shirt. In Carolinian, the Mayor speaks to Happy. Mr. Paul picks his times ready in a bag. The waves continue to roar. "Esta agupa Mayor." Six boys get on dingy on first trip with happy operating. *Challenger* is about 300 feet away. The Mayor burns dead leaves and scrap of paperboard.

Smoke comes and blows up into the coconut groves. The Mayor sits and observes Happy approaching shore. The pebble stones are the size of footballs with some grayish and reddish brown color. They are smooth and heavy. The second trip has Justice, Mr. Flores, Sepio, Dennis, and Rene. Happy hops up and Cal and Paul push the boat out. A quiet man with stained lips and small beer belly and with handsome features and not as dark as the Mayor came from fishing with Happy. He stood near the Pala Pala and simply thought and stared. Seven boys went with Justice and Mr. Guerrero to go hunting coconut crabs. Two hours later four coconut crabs and one bigger than all and a ram with eight-inch horns were hauled by the two adults and the boys. The tying ritual occurred and the crabs hung around the kitchen. Mr. Flores explained the easy technique of killing the crabs, pulling off the takongna-scalp. Praises are given to Mr. Rene Justo and the "umang" prize given to Mr. Calistro Junior. Goodnights padded on the caps of the crabs. Ansen says "Goodnight honey to the big crab."

Before the hunt, dinner was had—fried fish, rice, and kimichi. Justice V and Al played the ukulele and sang some more local tunes. We sang along and questioned the Judge the meanings of the words sung. He never answered but continued singing. What a sight, six huge coconut crabs hanging and will be dinner tomorrow. We hear Ansen asking where's the ice cream? "I scream, you scream, no ice cream."

I asked Justice if we could put the pictures of the crabs' games prizes in the news provided we print the hunting permit next to it. Justice says no.

The moon is behind half moon, a "Quarter," or me and not I can fill in the gaps in his adventure, everyone is getting ready to sleep. After the second trip from the beach to *Challenger* I, Paul, Ben, and Pete pulled out swimming to the *Challenger*. The sight of the *Challenger*, the Dawai as called by one of the boys gives a nice feeling. I remarked to Captain Tai this is why we got the *Challenger*, and not to do scientific studies, but to take boys, citizens, and residents to experience their land, beautiful islands and have the adventure. We lost ourselves in mesmerizing beauty, forbidding beauty-sweet, high and untenable. I regained energy and have not felt tired. The flies sleep at night and appear not to bother us as much during the days now. The wind changed direction and I looked towards the horizon, a dark wall and without the distant Saipan lights. I forgot to mention last night the lights sailed west and disappeared and tonight there isn't anything except for snores from the adults, the waves crashing onto the rocks, the twerp and chirps of bats, and some neighing of goats. Silence is not empty. It's filled with tranquility and we are thankful to the spirits, both ocean and land spirits, to see to it that we are at peace and in harmony. The stars stare, and the clouds slowly sail away in the sky. The ground is sweet and we are ready to sleep.

CRA meeting on Feb. 25

The Commonwealth Retirement Association will have a meeting on Feb. 25, 6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Building in Susupe. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Board actions/minutes.
- CRA Board intervention in Judge Govendo's with respect to Judge Munson's order.
- CRA Board supports Mario Taitano Suit against Merrill Lynch.
- NMIRF Administrator on fund policies and actions undertaken.
- CRA By-laws requested amendments.
- Membership Legislation/ Drive.
- Other Matters.

For more information, call CRA chairman Juan M. Sablan at 256-5877.

JAPANESE GROUP
Eighty-two members of a tour group from Route Inn in Japan held memorial services at the Japanese Memorial Monument on Saipan last Feb. 7. Saipan Mayor Donald Flores officially welcomed the group, and Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres presented a plaque of appreciation to the group for visiting the Northern Marianas. Members of the Saipan Rotary Club also joined the ceremony.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
Happy birthday Mama Eula. We love you so much! Your life is a blessing to everyone you meet. Greetings from Donna and Charlie, Bruno and Ampon, and all your friends here on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 15, 1999

Chamber weighs in on port fees
The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has opposed the planned increase on airport fees because it will have an adverse effect on the efforts of the CNMI government to lure investors to the Northern Marianas. In a letter to Carlos H. Salas, executive director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Chamber said any hike in airport fees would most likely result in reduction in revenues as airlines may scale down its operation. Airlines that are even considering to increase their flights may be discouraged after learning about the planned rate hike, according to David Wiseman, chairman of the Chamber's Government Relations Committee.

HEW resumes NMC oversight Feb. 17
The House committee on Health, Education and Welfare will resume on Wednesday its oversight on the Northern Marianas College and the government scholarship program, marking the third hearing in a series of investigation planned by the legislative panel. The hearing this week is expected to get into details on policies and operations of NMC which has come under attack in recent years due to allegations of mismanagement of funds. In its inquiry held last February 3, the panel chaired by Rep. Heinz Hofschneider noted inconsistencies in the college policies as it asked NMC officials to produce several documents, including salary structure of employees and an previous opinion from its former legal counsel clarifying its status as autonomous government agency.

Feb. 15, 2000

US visa fixer pleads not guilty
Thirty-six-year-old Lourdes R. Guevarra, who was accused of swindling several Filipinos in exchange for a U.S. visa and work permit, yesterday pled not guilty to charges during an arraignment before the Superior Court. But Assistant Attorney General Marvin J. Williams has asked the court to order Ms. Guevarra to surrender her passport due to the possibility that she may leave the island, citing information that the suspect has purchased a plane ticket to go off-island. Last week Ms. Guevarra was charged with three counts each of criminal deception, theft by deception and failure to make the required disposition of funds.

Recycling is now a law
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has signed into law a legislation that seeks to extend the life span of the new landfill in Marpi through intensified promotion of recycling wastes in the Northern Marianas. Called the Commonwealth Recycling Act of 1999, Public Law 11-122 seeks to divert toxic and hazardous materials from the new dumpsite in Marpi. "These efforts are vital to our environment," Mr. Tenorio said in a letter to the Legislature, adding that steps should also be taken by enforcing agencies to ensure that fees are within reasonable level.

Feb. 15, 2001

In Hawaii Prominent NMI residents face sexual assault raps
News of former local residents charged with sexual assault of a child before a Hawaii court jolted the CNMI community, sending gasps of disbelief that members of two of the islands' most prominent families could be incriminated on allegations of perversion. Married couple Victor Flores, 38, from Saipan and Celeste Mendiola Flores, 36, from Rota were brought before the Oahu, Hawaii grand jury late last week for charges ranging from third to first degree sexual assault of a 13-year-old child, according to a report carried by Hawaii-based online publication, Star-Bulletin. The couple allegedly contrived to engage in oral and sexual intercourse with the minor, who has been placed legally under their care by relatives.

Wiseman's nomination gets yet another blow
What alleged involvement in the prostitution business had failed to do, accusations of bribery is expected to finish. Rep. Stanley Torres yesterday called on members of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations to junk the nomination of lawyer David A. Wiseman as Superior Court associate judge. This, after Mr. Torres unearthed a 1988 FBI written document where a former CUC employee confessed that Mr. Wiseman and his client, Adrian Johnston, paid him a total of $12,000 to $13,000 to "flat-rate" electric charges of the now-defunct Surf Hotel in San Antonio.

Cyclone misses American Samoa, turns toward Tonga

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP)—A powerful tropical storm missed American Samoa early Saturday morning, causing heavy rains and high winds but sparing more devastation to the U.S. territory battered by a deadly autumn tsunami.

Tropical Cyclone Rene was about 110 miles south of Pago Pago and moving southwest on a track that will take it into central and southern Tonga, said cyclone forecaster Alipate Waqaicelua of the Nadi Tropical Cyclone Center in Fiji. The storm center was about 485 miles northeast of the island chain.

Strong winds from the storm were still expected to batter American Samoa, which prompted forecasters to replace the hurricane warning with a gale warning that predicted winds of 30 to 45 mph, said meteorologist Mase Akapo Jr. with the National Weather Service in Pago Pago

"The public still needs to continue to take precautionary measures due to the strong winds," Akapo said, adding that the high surf will continue, with waves of 15 to 18 feet expected through Saturday evening.

"We are still faced with high waves," he said.

Heavy rain fell on parts of Tutuila, the territory's most populous island, early Saturday morning, and some low-lying areas were flooded.

Rene never made landfall on either Tutuila or the Manu'a island group, but the government planned to conduct an assessment on Saturday to find out if any damage was cause by the storm.

AP

A teenager walks around the town area with his umbrella during a drizzling rain as Tropical Cyclone Rene approaches American Samoa on Friday Feb. 12, 2010.

If the cyclone stays on its current track, it could bring heavy rain and thunderstorms, powerful sea surges, pounding waves and widespread coastal flooding to Tonga within 24 to 36 hours, Waqaicelua said.

The storm was expected to strengthen in the next 12 to 24 hours, he said, with possible winds gusts of up to 175 mph.

In American Samoa, several Manu'a residents reached earlier by phone by The Associated Press said the winds had been extremely strong but they have not heard of any reports of injuries or major damage.

Emergency officials in the capital of Pago Pago said there were reports that high winds had downed some trees and electrical lines. The officials also said there was one death indirectly caused by Rene—a 50-year-old man died Friday morning after falling from a two-story building while boarding it up to protect it from the storm.

Territorial Gov. Togiola Tulafono called for calm, urging residents to "be aware and be safe."

Referring to the tsunami that killed more than 200 people in the Samoan islands and Tonga in September, Tulafono said "as we recover from the events of last September 29th, it is a good feeling that we have placed high priority to help ourselves by preparing and spreading the emergency awareness message."

US slams Fiji over media censorship, intimidation

GENEVA (AP)—The United States is criticizing Fiji's military government for censoring and intimidating the media.

A U.S. diplomat told the U.N.'s Human Rights Council on Thursday that Washington is "deeply concerned" about freedom of speech in the South Pacific island nation.

John C. Mariz said the U.S. is also concerned about the junta's decision last year to remove the judiciary after it declared the 2006 military coup unlawful.

Sainivalati S. Navoti, an official at Fiji's foreign ministry, rejected criticism of the country's legal system.

He said "the judicial machinery is functioning and its wheels are rotating independently."

Live fire training scheduled at FDM

The U.S. Air Force and Japan Air Self Defense Force will conduct live-fire training exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- Feb. 16 from 8:20am to 5:15pm
- Feb. 17 from 8:20am to 5:30pm
- Feb. 18 from 8am to 5:30pm
- Feb. 19 from 8am to 1pm

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The general public especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from this area during the times and dates indicated.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 339-3209. ***(PR)***

Nominations now open for 2010 RP Presidential Awards

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan announced that nominations are now open for the Year 2010 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas.

The Presidential Awards is a biennial search to recognize exception individuals and organizations for their understanding contribution to Philippine progress and development.

The awards are also conferred on overseas Filipinos who have shown excellence in their work or profession. Instituted in 1991, it has so far conferred on 314 overseas-based individuals and organizations.

Interested parties may submit their nominations to the Philippine Consulate General at the 5th floor, Marianas Business Plaza. Copies of the primer containing the rules and guideline for the Presidential Awards, as well as nomination and endorsement forms are available at the consulate.

The completed nomination forms with supporting documents, will be forwarded by the consulate to the Commission on Filipinos Overseas before the May 30, 2010 deadline. ***(PR)***

U.S. PROBATION OFFICE
DISTRICTS OF GUAM
AND THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Vacancy Announcement No: GUP 10-001

Position Title:	**U.S. Probation Officer**
Type of Appointment:	**Full-Time Permanent**
Classification Level:	Court Personnel System - Grade CL-26 to CL-28
Salary Range:	$38,331 to $63,119 (Salary commensurate with experience plus 20.94% COLA, which is subject to change)
Area of Consideration:	All Sources
Opening Date:	February 16, 2010
Closing Date:	March 5, 2010 (close of business - 5pm)
Location of Vacancy:	**Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

Position Overview
The U.S. Probation Officer serves in the judiciary law enforcement position and assists in the administration of justice and promotes community safety, conducts investigations, supervises persons on probation, parole, supervised release, pre-release, and pretrial services, and interacts with collateral agencies to gather information, prepare reports, and present recommendations to the Court. The incumbent will work in the U.S. Probation Office, Saipan, District of the Northern Mariana Islands. Work is performed under the supervision of a U.S. Probation Officer Specialist and the Deputy Chief U.S. Probation Officer.

Within the first six months of employment, the incumbent will be required to participate in a six (6) week National Training Institute at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) program located in Charleston, South Carolina.

Representative Duties and Responsibilities (summarized)
1) Conduct investigations and prepare reports for the Court with recommendations, which requires interviewing offenders/defendants and their families, as well as collecting background data from various sources. An integral part of this process is the interpretation and application of policies and procedures, statutes, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedures, and may include U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, Monographs, and relevant case law; 2) Enforce court-ordered supervision conditions and implement supervision strategies; 3) Maintain personal contact with defendants and offenders; 4) Investigate employment, sources of income, lifestyle, and associates to assess risk and needs; 5) Address substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, and similar problems and implement the necessary treatment or violation proceedings, through assessment, monitoring, and counseling; 6) Collect and conduct urinalysis tests of offenders/defendants following established procedures and protocols; 7) Maintain paper and computerized records of test results, including chain of custody of urinalysis testing materials; 8) Respond to judicial officer's request for information and advice; 9) Testify in court as to the basis for factual findings and (if warranted) guideline applications; 10) Maintain detailed written records of case activity; 11) Analyze financial documents and activities and take appropriate action.; 12) Interview victim(s) and provide victim impact statements to the court and ensure compliance with Mandatory Victims Restitution Act; 13) Conduct presentence investigations and respond to any objections, which may include resolving disputed issues and presenting unresolved issues to the Court for resolution; 14) Assess offenders'/defendants' level of risk and needs, and develop strategies for controlling and correcting risks; 15) Communicate with other organizations and persons (such as the U.S. Parole Commission, Bureau of Prisons, law enforcement, treatment agencies, and attorneys) concerning offenders'/defendants' behavior and conditions of supervision; 16) Identify and investigate violations and implement appropriate alternatives and sanctions, report violations of the conditions of supervision, and prepare written reports of violation matters and make recommendations for disposition; 17) Testify at court or parole hearings; 18) Knowledge of, and compliance with, the Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees and court confidentiality requirements; 19) Ability to consistently demonstrate sound ethics and judgment; 20) Participate in and contribute to on-going training programs, and have a working knowledge in outcome driven/evidence based practices; and 21) Perform other duties as assigned.

Important information regarding Applicant Requirements and Qualifications; Specialized Experience; Medical Requirements and Maximum Entry Age; and Medical Examination, Drug Screening, and Background Investigation is described in the complete announcement and is available at our website at http://www.gup.uscourts.gov.

Application Procedure
Qualified applicants must submit an original and four copies of each of the following: 1) letter of interest; 2) resume; 3) letters from three professional references; 4) letters from three personal references; and 5) a completed AO 78 (Application for Employment) to:

Vacancy Announcement GUP 10-001
Rossanna Villagomez-Aguon
Chief U.S. Probation Officer
U.S. Probation Office – Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands
Horiguchi Building, Rm.4D
P.O. Box 502089
Saipan, MP 96950
671-473-9201

The complete announcement and the AO 78 (Application for Employment) are available on our website at http://www.gup.uscourts.gov. Incomplete application documents will not be considered. The U.S. Probation Office reserves the right to amend or withdraw any announcement without written notice to applicants.

All application documents must be received at the U.S. Probation Office address above no later than Friday, March 5, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. Applications will not be accepted via email or facsimile. Untimely applications will not be considered. The most qualified applicants will be invited to, and must be physically present for, a personal interview. Travel expenses and relocation expenses will not be reimbursed. All application information will be subject to verification.

The U.S. Probation Office is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Push back on Iran

Thursday's events in Iran looked like a defeat for the opposition green movement — and for the cause of stopping the regime's nuclear weapons program. A massive deployment of force and an information blockade that included the interruption of the telephone system and satellite broadcasts appeared to prevent large opposition crowds from gathering on the anniversary of the 1979 revolution. The government, meanwhile, assembled a large audience for one of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's boasting rants.

The green movement is far from dead; its long-term triumph remains more likely than not. But if the regime of Ahmadinejad and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei gains confidence from the week's events, it will be even less likely to respond to Western offers of a deal to end its race for a bomb. Instead it will press ahead with provocations, like the stepped-up enrichment of uranium that Ahmadinejad bragged of. That means the Obama administration will need to look for new ways to push back.

The administration has take some important steps in recent days. The Treasury Department brought new U.S. sanctions against companies and individuals associated with the Revolutionary Guard, and administration spokesmen have continued to speak out forcefully against the regime's abuses. But more should be done to help the opposition. For example, the Internet and satellite television blockages might be overcome with more U.S. support for private groups working to counter the regime's jamming and firewalls.

A rethinking of the administration's sanctions strategy may also be in order. In addition to the Treasury measures, the State Department has been pursuing a new sanctions resolution at the U.N. Security Council — the fourth — that also would be aimed at the Revolutionary Guard. But there's little indication that China's resistance to the measure can be overcome unless most of the resolution's teeth are removed. During his presidential campaign, President Barack Obama spoke about much tougher measures — including steps to prevent Iran from importing gasoline and other refined products. The administration has since edged away from that idea, partly because of the difficulty of winning support from other governments and partly out of concern that it would persuade average Iranians to rally for rather than against their government.

Yet for every expert who argues that a shortage of gasoline would somehow help Ahmadinejad, there is one who believes it will deepen popular rejection of the regime. France, among other European governments, has been talking tough about the need for sanctions that bite; a U.S.-backed gasoline embargo would put that resolve to the test.

At a minimum, Obama should be prepared to welcome and sign into law legislation, now in a congressional conference committee, that would authorize U.S. sanctions against firms that sell gasoline to Iran or provide tankers and insurance. Secondary sanctions are a blunt instrument, especially when directed against companies from friendly countries. But the threat of them might be needed to prod the Security Council or an ad-hoc Western alliance into taking steps that will break the Iranian regime's dangerous gathering of momentum.

(c) 2010, The Washington Post

Imagine for awhile with me…

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Let's imagine for awhile that we are as children with no personal ambitions or personal prejudices and a willingness to share the good life in which everybody benefits. As I depict the CNMI as it can become, I allow space for you to add some of your own thoughts. Maybe you agree, maybe you don't. I would love to know. My email is tonypell@saipan.com I feel that perhaps together we can make it be a better place. The CNMI is our home. We should feel great hope and a bright future for it.

The CNMI I envision will have almost zero unemployment. Anybody and everybody will have a job based on their training and skill. When I call for maintenance on my house, a local carpenter, plumber, painter, or whatever tradesman I need will respond to my need. When I go into a grocery store, all the clerks, and especially the owners, will be locals. As I dine in my favorite restaurant, the waiter or waitress will greet me with a local smile. When I go for my car repair, I will see a local familiar face.

When the tourists register at a hotel the local front desk clerks will greet them in English and in the guest's native tongue. The local bellman will then take the bags to the rooms. So it goes with all the other occupations.

(What are your thoughts so far? Fill in the blank spaces.)_____.

A fast catamaran vessel will transport the people of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota between the islands. Daily it will leave Saipan in the morning carrying passengers, both residents and tourists. Passengers will be able to carry all their groceries and other needs at no additional cost. The trip price will be quite reasonable. Several times a week the trip will be extended to include Guam on a demand basis. In this manner the islands will become closer at a cheaper cost than plane fare and at greater convenience. Isn't this one of the things that is lacking in bringing us closer?

(Your thoughts)_____.

It has been suggested many times that we have a part-time Legislature. So instead of 29 Senators and Representatives, we create one legislative body of 15 members on a part time basis. Think of all the money we save. Most of all consider how much more efficient the law making group becomes. If Guam can do it, which has over three times the population, why can't we also do the same?

(You think of added benefits)_____.

Instead of government owned and operated utility and water facilities, we will make joint venture tie-ups with experienced operators of these facilities. In all agreements, both parties will explicitly know and understand what will be expected from each other. The private operators and investors will know before they start what the expected profit margin to be realized will be. Also all deals will be put into clear writing. A good role model to examine is how Singapore has been successfully doing this type of arrangement.

Government's role is to govern—not to operate businesses. Compare the number of successful government wholly owned and operated businesses with joint ventures between government and the private sector in other parts of the world. Each has a different expertise. By combing them we realize a better operation.

(Your thoughts)_____.

Take tourism seriously. Turn it into a community industry, not just a sector of the government. Educate all the citizens to welcome tourists to our islands. Tourism is a major industry and like any major industry must be cultivated and adapted to changes. Create attractive sight-seeing sites. Find out what tourists expect when visiting us and fulfill those expectations. Throwing more money at it is not the only answer. Creative and innovative ideas must be implemented.

(Your thoughts)_____.

We must realize that we are beginning to be asked to play a bigger role in our relationship with the United States. Let us discuss this role and turn it into a win-win situation. Too long we have been taking-taking-from Uncle Sam. Now he needs us to help him which also means to help ourselves. How do we do this? Let's sit down and thrash it out and reach a happy conclusion. You know if we really want a good close relationship we will find a happy arrangement.

(Your thoughts)_____.

Let's train our government employees to do better work thereby increasing their work performance. By improving their skills we can reduce the workforce by at least 40 to 50 percent. We are a small country and not complex to operate. With a lean and more dedicated workforce we will greatly improve our management of governance and greatly reduce personnel costs which currently are about 75 percent of our budgets. This leaves us very little money to do necessary work in the community.

(Your thoughts)_____.

Our people are as intelligent as any other people in the world. The reason we don't often see this is because we don't motivate our youth to study the more academic, professional and scientific skills we so desperately need in our community. We must motivate them to become doctors, nurses, accountants, legal minds, and other needed professionals.

(Your thinking)_____.

Let's create learning opportunities for our youth to become businesspeople and investors. Let's teach financial management. When this happens we can become partners with off-island investors, instead of hangers-on as now. We need to become partners in ventures in our islands. If we fail to achieve that status, we will never be on an equal footing with them. We must be able to speak the same financial and business language as they do. All some of us do now is to act as a middleman for our investors such as opening doors to ex-

See IMAGINE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Being the US President

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Before the United States drafted a Constitution, the President of the United States was so-called because he presided over the deliberations of the U.S. Congress. George Washington refused the salutation of "Your Excellency" as too reminiscent of the monarchy he revolted against; he opted to just be called "Mr. President," instead.

When the Constitution was finally written, a check-and-balance scheme created the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government to be of equal power though different functions. That separation of powers prevail today in a government that Abe Lincoln would define as one "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Historians dub with broad strokes three democracy movements in the continuing saga of the American Revolution. The first is called the Enlightenment, based on the notion that truth is latent in every human being due to innate reason, and therefore, everyone has access to the truth, a feature of the Reformation within Christianity that negated authority of divine right with the authority of reason, accessible "in the priesthood of all believers." 'Maieutics' is its pedagogy associated with the Socratic method of midwifery of the truth through dialogue and dialectics. The 18th century is often called the Enlightenment Century.

"Progress" became the battle cry of the 19th Century. Adam Smith liberated the management of the market away from central control, the main feature of the monarchial rule. Democratization of choice flowered *laissez-faire* capitalism. Karl Marx democratized ownership of the means of production by abolishing private property with public ownership. His followers, however, ended up centralizing control of the economy with the dictatorship of the proletariat that became a dictatorship of a party cadre supplanting the dictatorship of a cabal of aristocrats.

Royal control of centrally regulated economies stagnated in Adam Smith's time, thus, the desire to free private enterprise to map out its own course out of its own devices. In our time, they become so huge, and are vested legal rights like persons (affirmed by a recent US Supreme Court ruling) that not only do they manipulate the market, they also amass assets larger than many nations, thus, exerting unbridled influence on political decisions. *When Corporations Rule the World* was not a NY Times bestseller for nothing!

The Enlightenment did not stick to its wisdom on dialogical learning; instead, it brought about an aristocracy of the learned, the ascendancy of tenure, dependency on "experts," and the glorification of elitist culture; the drive for economic progress created the oligarchy of wealth and the sovereign power of finances, and with the mechanization of industry, a pecking order of sort ensued where developed nations lorded it over the developing and undeveloped nations. Labor, as dramatically demonstrated in the exploitation of captive workers in the NMI garment industry, was at the mercy of the owners of the means of production.

Presidents of the United States presided over the best and worst impulses of the Enlightenment and the promise of progress of Liberal Capitalism, having eschewed the royalist practices of Tory politics although eastern seaboard culture remain in the boutique shops of Louis the XIV. Feudal structures are entrenched in the miters, capes and gowns of religious establishments! The profound shift of "all men (sic) are created equal" was shafted by the requirement of cheap labor in the cotton fields of the agrarian South.

The opening of the West, inviting diversity with settlers and coolies, reared up the ugly head of Aryan supremacy that even today, with the more than 40 years since the passage of the Civil Rights Act, we still find a rather demeaning treatment of the unwary aliens who are shoveled about in what passes for the practice of law! Tim Bellas' defense of only qualified recipients of a labor monetary judgment missed the point: the chosen recipients were hardly in the radar screen. It was a choice made by the Board over the welfare of those who had a more legitimate claim!

Neocons and Keynesians are two terms bandied about in politics. Neocons wish to reform the excesses of free enterprise; Keynesians insists on the regulatory function of governance. Both are capitalists who agree that government has a decisive role in the furtherance of the economy. The former will have government provide tax breaks on capital and profit, establish favorable incentives to investments, or, at least, get out of the way. Beginning with FDR's New Deal, the latter promote government investments in public infrastructures and far-reaching social nets. Deferring to choice, Obama gave the States the option to determine, as well as refuse, the use of their allocated stimulus package, but with the massive bailout on Wall Street, the Neocons prevailed on the first round. Delay in the passage of Health Care legislation and the political setbacks in recent elections points to a jellied spine in the ranks of the Keynesians in President Obama's camp in his first year in office.

The election of the Barack Hussein Obama as the 44th President sent two paradigm shifting adrenalin shots into both hemisphere of the social brain. One heard the death knell tolling on the continuing demise of partisan politics, trickle-down economics, and elitist culture in the waning days of Western Civilization. The other saw a nod of recognition on the continuing democratization of humanity within the context of preserving the integrity and inherent process of the planet earth. This third movement is sometimes called EcoDemocracy; we call it the 'ecozoic' era, the glocalization of our lives.

The Neocons are a rearguard action, the Keynesians are technicians without moral fiber. Neither are prophetic nor revolutionary in their program agenda. President Obama finds himself in between the proverbial "hard rock and a hard place," between that which is fast receding to be "no longer" and that which is struggling to be born but "not quite yet." Obama is no revolutionary, but "we the people," heir to the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, can be. We must decide which track we are on. Then, act accordingly!

Do you get the sense that somehow, we all need to preside over the destinies of our lives?

IMAGINE

From Page 10

pedite their business licenses or help with other problems. Then we reach out our hand as though expecting a tip. But we rarely become a member of the group because of our lack of business knowledge.

(Your thoughts)_____.

But let's stop here and return to our adulthood attitudes. The list of things we can do to better our community, our citizens' lives as well as our own can be extended to any length. But you will notice two important points on how to accomplish these goals.

Never did I say we need lots and lots of money. Money is almost always available for most worthy projects. The problem is how do we use the money—wisely or foolishly? What is most important is that we set our minds to improving our communities without any personal ambitions, without personal prejudices and a willingness to make improvements.

The second very important point is the I-the me! Do I really want to better myself understanding that as I better myself, I better my income and better the community? Changes begin with the desire of an individual which turns into the desire of many which then turns into a desire for a whole community.

I truly believe that we have been deluded for too long a time. We have been deprived of our opportunities by false promises of prosperity through the investment and work of others. True prosperity can only be gained from our personal hard work. We possess greatness and must learn how to release it. Let's start with the simplicity of childhood. Let's believe in ourselves. Bend over and pick up the diamond under your feet and polish it.

Does all this sound too simple? Believe it or not, it is! We create our world ourselves. But while thinking about what I have written above, consider this:

IF WE DON'T LIKE SOMETHING, CHANGE IT! IF WE CANNOT CHANGE IT, THEN CHANGE OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS IT! BUT DON'T BE A WHINER!

Letters to the Editor

Getting away from the political games

It's obvious the leadership for the Northern Islands has become another political football game and voting citizens are the ones who are being tossed around by those who have the power and the ball when it should be about the best person for the job being tossed around—a fact that seems to have been overlooked in the hysteria of the political game. Not having the right to vote in the Northern Islands election for mayor actually frees me up to say something from a personal perspective and there have been so many people with the right to vote in the election asking me to use my writing skills to relay their message of support for mayoral candidate Toby Aldan.

The supporters of Toby want the N. Island people to be "one people" without all the politics and political games that are being played by the opposition. In fact, one of the main reasons they want to live in the N. Islands is to get away from the political games that often leads to disappointment for the people. I agreed to write this because I was convinced by their arguments and the facts surrounding the mayoral race. It is also my belief that every citizen should at least be able to comment on what is clearly part of the CNMI and the future of the CNMI. I was more than convinced by the facts and the platform of Mr. Aldan that he is the better qualified candidate with a better vision for the future of the Northern Islands. The election is about qualifications and the ability to lead and leaders must have the vision to see what is ahead in order to be a leader for the one people of the Northern Islands to go in the right direction.

Mr. Aldan initially won and by all accounts people are dropping their devotion to the opposition because of the party politics that have already been put in play by the opposition. From what I can tell Mr. Aldan might be favored to win again fueled by the controversy created over the election votes that has led to a new election and now the potential for improprieties over the mayor's office that may be directly related to the party affiliation of the opposition and the governor.

It is also my opinion that (Ms. R) has really placed undue pressure on an administration that is already under the watchful eye of the federal government and the people for anything the governor can be blamed for doing wrong or illegally. Party loyalty is one thing but now the governor is directly or indirectly involved in another pending investigation which is just more proof of the *"under the microscope phenomenon"* this administration faces—and this certainly isn't helping regardless of the final determination of the investigation. Figuratively speaking, someone dropped the ball playing party politics with power plays and favoritism—now the entire CNMI can see there was another fumble by the administration with a video review being conducted by the Public Auditor.

If this kind of politics continues, it is almost a *gi-me* that sooner or later there is going to be big turnover that could change the whole game—if you get what I mean. The governor had better hurry up and get that political scientist with an ***"A"*** game that he was talking about hiring to help his administration or this type of stuff could go on for another five long years!

But if you don't believe me about the candidates just read Mr. Aldan's platform and compare it and I'm sure you will see for yourself the same facts and vision, which is what a vote should be based on—the facts and the best qualified person with a vision, plan, or even dream. It is clear Mr. Aldan is not about politics and political games as an independent and his platform clearly exemplifies the needed desire for change with an aggressive leadership for the people to live better lives in the Northern Islands. Leave the politics outside the voting booth and vote for the best person. If you want to contribute to play politics and power plays that lead to controversy and nothing getting done for the people then vote for the opposition, but if you dare to dream and want a brighter future for the Northern Islands—Toby and that's my valued opinion!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

Stories that relate to our particular climate

I thought it was interesting on Saturday to read your article about how to entertain your kids in the wintertime by taking them ice fishing in sub-zero weather on a frozen lake, ice skating, building a snow-fort, or blowing bubbles and watching them freeze in the air.

I also find articles on Saturdays about cars that are not available for sale here or recipes that contain ingredients that you can't find in any local stores.

While I'm not trying to make fun or be critical, wouldn't it be nice if we had more articles in the Saturday paper that were geared towards living on a tropical island? It just seems that sometimes, the articles may just be pulled from somewhere but are totally unrelated to living in the place that we live. I could be wrong, and perhaps these are just feature stories. But I just thought it would be nice to see more in the papers on Saturday that specifically relate to our particular climate. Thanks for listening.

Susan Marchitti
Capital Hill

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy then partly cloudy with isolated showers by afternoon. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

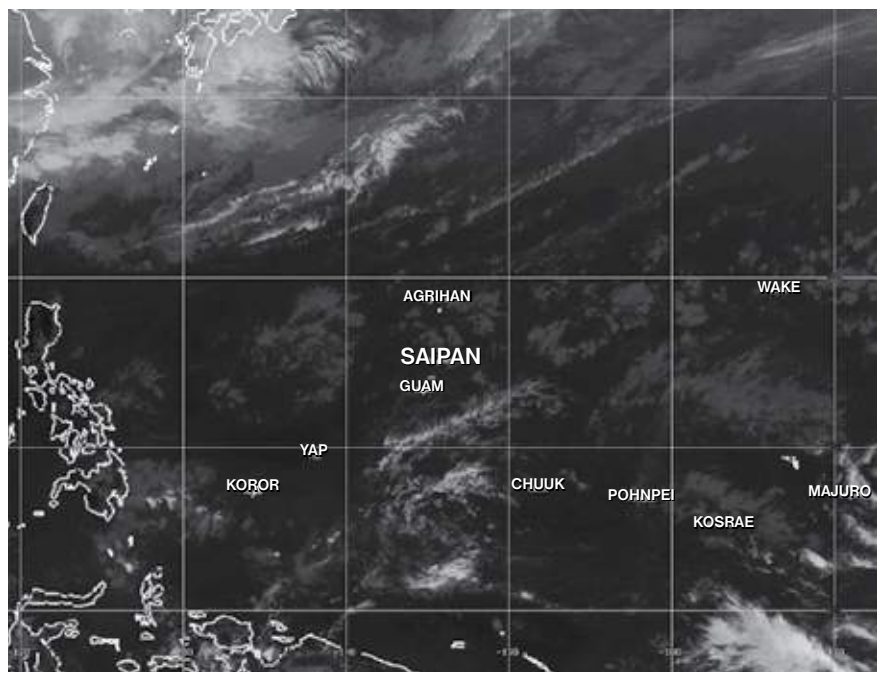
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲84	▼74
Palau	Rain	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲73	▼71
Beijing	Sunny	▲34	▼20
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲70	▼61
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼67
London	Cloudy	▲43	▼40
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼52
Manila	Sunny	▲88	▼75
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲75	▼58
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼53
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲32	▼24
Osaka	Rain	▲45	▼30
Paris	Sunny	▲32	▼26
Pusan	Cloudy	▲46	▼37
Rome	Showers	▲50	▼35
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲54	▼40
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼51
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲41	▼22
Tokyo	Rain	▲45	▼25
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲35	▼27

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear-line enters the discussion area near 25N140E and extends to 21N130E and beyond. Clouds and scattered showers are found along and up to 180 miles north of the boundary. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers 100 miles north and south of a line that stretches from 7N158E to 3N170E to 1N180. This area covers portions of Pohnpei and Kosrae states as well as the Marshall Islands. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers north of Kwajalein or 150 miles north and south of a line that extends from 13N156E to 12N170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:35 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
9:01 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:59 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
8:16 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Wednesday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Thursday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:05 AM	7:12 PM
Tuesday	7:39 AM	7:59 PM
Wednesday	8:14 AM	8:46 PM
Thursday	8:50 AM	9:34 PM
Friday	9:28 AM	10:25 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 28, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA8282	3:15am	7:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily via NRT effective Jan 25
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3, 6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA8281	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

Anthem to delay insurance rate hike amid criticism

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Health insurer Anthem Blue Cross will postpone its much-criticized plan to raise rates for some California residents who buy insurance on their own, after reaching a deal Saturday with state regulators.

Anthem's planned rate hike, which the state estimates would affect about 700,000 customers, averaged 25 percent and would have been as high as 39 percent for some.

Anthem Blue Cross of California, based in Thousand Oaks, agreed to postpone the increase from March 1 until May 1 so California could have outside experts review the company's complex and detailed plan filing, including data on the medical costs it expects to incur.

The California Department of Insurance had been working with Anthem since mid-November to get more information about the increase, Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner said. He wanted to have experts comb through the company's figures to confirm the new rates comply with a 2006 state law that insurers spend 70 cents of every premium dollar on medical care.

"Medical cost inflation in California is in the 10 to 15 percent range, so I have a healthy skepticism how they can get to 39 percent" and comply with the law, Poizner said.

If they don't, he said, he will direct the company to reduce its prices, "or I will take away their license to sell insurance" in California.

He officially requested the delay on Monday, but said Anthem stuck to its position that the individual insurance plan had lost money last year and the rate increases were justified—until Saturday. The change of heart came after a week of extensive media reports about the rate hikes, harsh criticism from the Obama administration and two Congressmen scheduling a hearing to look into the rates on Feb. 24.

"They did the right thing today," Poizner said during a conference call. "These are huge, massive rate increases, very concerning to me and my team."

The insurance department, which doesn't have legal authority to regulate the rates insurers set, has hired consulting firm Axene Health Partners LLC of Southern California to work with actuaries within the department, review Anthem's rate proposal and determine whether it complies with the 70-cent rule. They should finish by mid-April.

Anthem, a subsidiary of insurance giant WellPoint Inc. of Indianapolis, said its proposed rates reflect anticipated medical costs.

Toy makers' crystal ball: High-tech on the cheap

NEW YORK (AP)—If the Zhu Zhu Pets taught a lesson, it's that a bit of technology and a low price tag can go a long way. Toy makers are taking that experience to heart.

From a digital Scrabble game that checks the words to a hovering UFO to miniature radio-control cars, toy makers are amping up the tech quotient but not prices.

Zhu Zhu Pets, the furry mechanical hamsters that zoom around, were the runaway hit of the holiday season. One key to their success: a price tag under $10.

The American International Toy Fair begins Sunday. This is the annual event where toy makers show off new offerings that will make their way into next year's stockings. Previews from toymakers and interviews with analysts make clear that the focus is on innovation and price. Few toys will retail for more than $100, and most will be priced below $30.

"There's still going to be some hesitancy to raise prices too much," said Needham & Co. analyst Sean McGowan. "Last year the feeling was under $30 is where you needed to be. This year there may be more willingness to be $30 to $50. But I don't think we'll see a wave of $300 stuffed horses again."

AP
In this photo provided by Hasbro, Marc Stewart, left, Kyle Burns, two members of the pop rock band "Forever the Sickest Kids," face-off with the 'Nerf N-Strike Deploy CS-6' and the 'Nerf N-Strike Raider Rapid Fire CS-35' blasters, both part of the new Clear Series Special Edition line of Nerf products, as they tour the Hasbro showroom at the American International Toy Fair in New York, Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010.

The toy industry performed a bit better during the holidays than it did in 2008, but the season was far from a bonanza. The NPD Group, which does market research, said toy revenue was flat because of discounts during the fourth quarter, but the industry sold 4 percent more toys. For the year, sales edged down 1 percent to $21.47 billion.

Tough times can spawn creativity.

"I've seen some really innovative products," said Jim Silver, an analyst at Timetoplaymag.com. He pointed to radio-control vehicles as combining innovation and low prices. One reason they're cheap: The cars themselves have shrunk, Silver said.

"What the industry has learned is that kids don't necessarily want 'bigger.' It's about the features, not the size of the vehicles," he said.

For $24.99, Mattel is offering tiny Hot Wheels radio-control Stealth Rides cars that fit in a case that doubles as the remote control. Spin Master has several radio-controlled offerings, including the Air Hogs Vectron Wave UFO flying saucer that can sense objects below it and hover above them. That also costs $24.99.

"Consumers like radio control, they just didn't want to spend $70," Silver said.

US: Airline venture should clear antitrust hurdle

ATLANTA (AP)—A plan by American Airlines, British Airways and other carriers to work more closely together coordinating schedules and sharing revenue on trans-Atlantic flights should win approval, the U.S. government said Saturday.

But to protect competition, the joint venture must make four pairs of takeoff and landing slots available to competitors for new service between the U.S. and London's Heathrow Airport, the Department of Transportation said.

There's been a surge over the last few years of U.S. carriers seeking joint ventures with foreign airlines to share costs and revenue on certain flights, regardless of which company owns or flies the aircraft. Those tie-ups could affect fares.

The Justice Department has said that allowing the American-British Airways venture could cause fares to rise up to 15 percent on some trans-Atlantic routes. A final decision by the DOT on the carriers' antitrust immunity application will follow a 60-day public comment period.

Despite the antitrust concerns, the DOT said that it believes allowing the deal between American, British Airways, Iberia Airlines, Finnair and Royal Jordanian Airlines would provide travelers and shippers with lower fares on more routes, increased services, better schedules and reduced travel and connection times. It would also create competition with other carrier alliances.

Japan worried that Toyota woes could hurt US ties

TOKYO (AP)—As pressure intensifies for Toyota's chief to testify before Congress about the automaker's safety lapses, Japanese political leaders and experts worry that the problem—if handled poorly—could damage ties between the two nations.

Relations between Washington and Tokyo are already strained by a dispute between the two governments over the relocation of a key U.S. Marine base on the southern island of Okinawa.

Political tension rose a notch Thursday when a Republican in the House of Representatives said he would support issuing a subpoena to compel Toyota President Akio Toyoda to appear before congressional committees later this month to examine the company's string of safety problems.

Toyota said Toyoda is expected to visit the U.S. in early March, but the company declined to confirm Japanese media reports that he would attend the Washington hearings. Toyota's North American head, Yoshimi Inaba, will appear before the committees, the company said.

AP
Master Diagnostic Technician Kurt Juergens, of Foxborough, Mass., prepares a Toyota Prius for brake system diagnostic and repair in the repair shop of a Toyota dealership, in Norwood, Mass., Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010.

Even before the world's biggest automaker announced its latest recall Tuesday of nearly 440,000 Prius and other hybrids, bringing its global total to 8.5 million vehicles for faulty gas pedals and brakes, Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada expressed concern about that the problem could become a political headache.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Calif. co. expands meat recall due to E. coli fear

MONTEBELLO, Calif. (AP)—A Southern California meatpacking firm has significantly expanded its recall of ground beef and veal that might be contaminated with E. coli. The recall includes approximately 4.9 million additional pounds of products by Huntington Meat Packing Inc. under the Huntington, Imperial Meat Co. and El Rancho brands, the Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service said Friday. The original recall was announced Jan. 18 and was for 864,000 pounds of meat. E. coli is a potentially deadly germ that can cause bloody diarrhea, dehydration and, in severe cases, kidney failure. The germ can be killed by cooking fresh and frozen meat products to an internal temperature of 160 degrees.

Reports: Japanese banks may drop merger plan

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Japan's Shinsei Bank Ltd. and Aozora Bank Ltd.—two midsize lenders with major U.S. shareholders—could call off their plan to merge later this year amid differences over management, strategy and system integration, news reports said Saturday. The two companies announced the merger plan in July, saying the combined entity would be Japan's sixth-largest bank with assets of about 18 trillion yen ($200.7 billion). However, Japan's leading Nikkei business daily said Saturday the banks have been unable to bridge differences over management policy or come up with a growth strategy. Kyodo News agency also reported they are at odds over how to integrate their banking systems, and what their core banking business should be.

Feds deny BART $70M for Oakland airport connector

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Federal officials have denied San Francisco Bay Area's commuter rail system $70 million in funding for a planned extension to the Oakland International Airport. The Federal Transit Administration said in a letter Friday that Bay Area Rapid Transit officials could not possibly meet deadlines for a required study of the extension's potential impact on minority residents. BART General Manager Dorothy Dugger accused opponents of the project of using federal civil rights laws to stop the project at the cost of thousands of jobs. Critics say money for the $492 million project would be better spent on preserving existing public transit service for low-income and minority Oakland residents.

Nation

Accused Alabama prof shot, killed brother in 1986

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP)—The professor accused of killing three colleagues during a faculty meeting is a Harvard-educated neurobiologist, inventor and mother whose life had been marred by a violent episode in her distant past.

More than two decades ago, police said Amy Bishop killed her teenage brother with a shotgun at their Massachusetts home in a shooting that investigators concluded was an accident.

Bishop had just months left teaching at the University of Alabama in Huntsville when police said she opened fire with a handgun Friday in a room filled with a dozen of her colleagues from the school's biology department.

Bishop, a rare woman suspected in a workplace shooting, was to leave after this semester because she had been denied tenure. Police say she is 42, but the university's Web site lists her as 44.

Some, including the husband of one victim and one of her students, have said she was upset after being denied the job-for-life security afforded tenured academics. Authorities have refused to discuss a motive, and school spokesman Ray Garner said the faculty meeting wasn't called to discuss tenure.

William Setzer, chairman of chemistry department at UAH, said Bishop was appealing the tenure decision made last year.

"Politics and personalities" always play a role in the tenure process, he said. "In a close department it's more so. If you have any lone wolves or bizarre personalities, it's a problem and I'm thinking that certainly came into play here."

Bishop

The three killed were Gopi K. Podila, the chairman of the Department of Biological Sciences, and two other faculty members, Maria Ragland Davis and Adriel Johnson. The wounded were still recovering in hospitals early Saturday. Luis Cruz-Vera was in fair condition; Joseph Leahy in critical condition; and staffer Stephanie Monticciolo also was in critical condition.

Bishop was in custody and it wasn't immediately known if she has an attorney. No one was home at the couple's house. Her husband, James Anderson, was detained and questioned by police but has not been charged.

A 9-millimeter handgun was found in the bathroom of the building where the shootings occurred, and Huntsville police spokesman Sgt. Mark Roberts said Bishop did not have a permit for it.

Descriptions of Bishop from students and colleagues were mixed. Some saw a strange woman who had difficulty relating to her students, while others described a witty, intelligent teacher.

Students and colleagues described Bishop as smart, but someone who often had difficulty explaining difficult concepts.

Bishop was well-known in the research community, appearing on the cover of the winter 2009 issue of "The Huntsville R&D Report," a local magazine focusing on engineering, space and genetics.

Walls of water overwhelm N. Calif. surfing contest

AP

Bystanders scramble as a rogue wave washes over the beach during the Mavericks Surfing Contest on Saturday Feb. 13, 2010 in Pillar Point, Calif.

HALF MOON BAY, Calif. (AP)—Despite big wave warnings, two walls of water caught dozens of spectators off-guard and knocked them to a rocky beach as they watched a Northern California surfing contest Saturday, leaving some with broken bones but sparing them from being pulled into the ocean.

Thirteen people swept from a seawall had significant injuries, including broken legs and hands, said California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Battalion Chief Scott Jalbert.

He reduced the official count from the 15 reported earlier in the day but said others treated at the beach for injuries such as scrapes and bruises were not included in the total. At least three of the injured were taken to hospitals.

Jalbert estimated "a couple hundred" people were on the seawall at the southern tip of Mavericks Beach when the waves struck, upstaging the surfing competition that draws some of the world's top surfers.

The waves were 5 feet to 6 feet high by the time they hit—"small but strong," he said. But no one was actually swept away into the ocean, he said.

"It's hard to explain how much water was moving around out there," said the champion Chris Bertish, who spent 36 hours traveling from South Africa to Half Moon Bay for the contest. "I took the worse beating of my life out there."

The Mavericks Surf Contest offers a $150,000 purse, making it the most lucrative big-wave contest in the world, even though it is held only when conditions are prime. Bertish bested 23 other elite surfers and said he'll spend part of his $50,000 in prize money paying back his brother and two friends who loaned him money to buy his airplane ticket.

Astronauts take 2nd spacewalk to hook up plumbing

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—A pair of spacewalking astronauts floated back outside Saturday night to hook up plumbing on the newest room of the International Space Station and bring it alive with power.

Robert Behnken and Nicholas Patrick had to route extra-long hoses that were fashioned right before space shuttle Endeavour's trip to the space station. The original ammonia coolant lines failed tests, and so engineers had to put together replacement hoses from shorter spares that were welded together.

The hoses are 14 feet to 18 feet long and, along with a protective blanket, cumbersome to work with.

"It certainly is longer than I remember it being," Patrick said as he got started.

It was the second excursion in three days for Behnken and Patrick. They have one more spacewalk to finish installing the Tranquility room and its attached observation deck, the last major building blocks of the 11-year-old space station. Endeavour carried up the pieces last week.

Once ammonia coolant is flowing through the hoses, Tranquility will begin surging with power. Its systems cannot be turned on unless there is a way to get rid of the heat generated by the equipment inside.

The $400 million-plus Tranquility and lookout—supplied by the European Space Agency—will hold life-support systems as well as exercise equipment and a toilet.

The domed lookout is essentially an enormous bay window that will provide breathtaking views of Earth. Its seven windows includes the largest ever flown in space: a round one 31 inches across.

White House weighs options for Sept. 11 trial

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration appears increasingly unsure what to do with professed Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed after officials indicated they are reconsidering not just where he should go on trial, but whether he should face civilian or military justice.

Both Attorney General Eric Holder and White House spokesman Robert Gibbs did not rule out a military trial when asked Friday about the Obama administration's options.

Trying Mohammed in military court would mark a further political retreat from Holder's announcement last year that Mohammed and the four other Sept. 11 suspects now held at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, would be tried in federal court in New York.

The Obama administration is trying to head off a possible vote in the Senate that could stop any terror suspects currently held at Guantanamo from being brought to the United States to face a civilian trial. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., is offering such legislation, after losing a vote last year on the issue.

"These al-Qaida terrorists are not common criminals," Graham said Saturday in the Republicans' weekly radio and Internet address. "A civilian trial of hard-core terrorists is unnecessarily dangerous and creates more problems than it solves."

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Sheriff's sergeant kills 2 women and self

GRESHAM, Ore. (AP)—Authorities in Oregon say an off-duty Clackamas County sheriff's sergeant opened fire at a lounge, killing his wife and another woman before fatally shooting himself. A third woman was in critical condition late Saturday. Officers say the shooting Friday night at the M & M Restaurant and Lounge appears to be a domestic dispute. They did not release details. Police say 46-year-old Jeffrey Grahn died from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. He worked for the agency for 15 years. Authorities say Grahn shot and killed 53-year-old Kathleen Hoffmeister at the scene and also shot his wife, 47-year-old Charlotte Grahn, who died Saturday at a hospital. Jeffrey Grahn filed for divorce in August. The couple had been married at least 17 years and had four children.

Report: Black Harvard professor donated handcuffs

NEW YORK (AP)—Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. says he he's donated the handcuffs used on him during his arrest last year outside his home to the Smithsonian Institution's black history museum. Gates says in Sunday's edition of The New York Times Magazine that he donated the handcuffs to the new National Museum of African American History and Culture. Gates' arrest last July by police investigating a report of a possible break-in at his home near Harvard University sparked a national debate over racial profiling. The charge against Gates was dropped, and the Harvard scholar later reconciled with the police sergeant who arrested him outside his Cambridge home. Gates says he met with Sgt. James Crowley several months ago at a cafe, where the officer gave him the handcuffs.

Magnitude 4.1 quake rattles Southern Calif.

REDLANDS, Calif. (AP)—A magnitude 4.1 earthquake rattled San Bernardino County but there are no reports of damage or injury. The U.S. Geological Survey says the quake struck at 1:39 p.m. Saturday about three miles south of Redlands. It was followed by two aftershocks within eight minutes, a magnitude 1.5 and a 1.4. Sheriff's dispatchers say no damage or injuries have been reported. USGS data showed that the quake was likely felt as weak shaking as far west as Chino and Pomona, and south to Temecula. Earlier Saturday a magnitude 3.4 earthquake shook a desert area about 170 miles to the south in San Diego County.

Plans advance for Golden Gate Bridge suicide nets

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Directors of the agency that oversees the Golden Gate Bridge have moved a step closer to approving a suicide barrier along the historic span. The board voted 16-0 to approve an environmental impact report that examines the consequences of hanging steel nets 20 feet below the bridge deck on each side. About 25 people per year die in jumps from the bridge. Suicide prevention activists have long pushed for the barrier, while detractors have argued the money would be better spent on mental health services. The bridge district needs $50 million for the project—$5 million for a detailed design and $45 million for construction.

Asia

Bomb kills 9, wounds 57 at western Indian bakery

NEW DELHI (AP)—A bomb detonated in a crowded bakery popular with foreigners in western India killing nine people and wounding 57, officials said Sunday, the first terrorist attack in the country since the 2008 Mumbai massacre.

The blast Saturday in the city of Pune, 125 miles (200 kilometers) southeast of Mumbai, threatened to damage new efforts to reduce tensions between nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan, with Hindu nationalist leaders placing blame for the attack on India's Muslim neighbor.

"It was a bomb lying in an unattended bag," Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram told reporters Sunday after visiting the bakery and the wounded in hospitals.

Six people died at the scene and three later succumbed to injuries at hospitals, he said. Of the 57 wounded, 19 were released from medical facilities.

Chidambaram said forensic experts were trying to determine what explosives were used and how the bomb was triggered.

AP
Indian police inspects the scene of an explosion outside a German bakery business close to the Osho Ashram in Pune, India, Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010.

"All the information available to us at the moment points to a plot to explode a device in a place that is frequented by foreigners as well as Indians," Chidambaram said.

Security forces were put on high alert Sunday at airports, train stations and markets across the country.

Home Secretary G.K. Pillai said the blast occurred at 7:30 p.m. at the German Bakery, near the Osho Ashram, a renowned meditation center.

Pillai said the ashram, about 200 yards (meters) from the bakery, had been surveyed by David Headley who is facing charges in Chicago for allegedly scouting targets for the Mumbai attack.

Chidambaram told reporters Headley had also observed the Chabad Jewish center near the bakery in Pune.

"This particular area has been on the radar (of terrorists) for quite some time," Chidambaram said. "Police were sensitized that Chabad House was a target, so was the Osho Ashram."

Bombs, booby-traps slow US advance in Afghan town

MARJAH, Afghanistan (AP)—Bombs and booby-traps slowed the advance of thousands of U.S. Marines and Afghan soldiers moving through the Taliban-controlled town of Marjah—NATO's most ambitious effort yet to break the militants' grip over their southern heartland.

NATO said Saturday it hoped to secure the area in days, set up a local government and rush in development aid in a first test of the new U.S. strategy for turning the tide of the eight-year war. The offensive is the largest since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan.

The Taliban appeared to have scattered in the face of overwhelming force, possibly waiting to regroup and stage attacks later to foil the alliance's plan to stabilize the area and expand Afghan government control in the volatile south.

NATO said two of its soldiers were killed in the first day of the operation—one American and one Briton, according to military officials in their countries. Afghan authorities said at least 20 insurgents were killed.

More than 30 transport helicopters ferried troops into the heart of Marjah before dawn Saturday, while British, Afghan and U.S. troops fanned out across the Nad Ali district to the north of the mud-brick town, long a stronghold of the Taliban.

Maj. Gen. Gordon Messenger told reporters in London that British forces "have successfully secured the area militarily" with only sporadic resistance from Taliban forces. A Taliban spokesman insisted their forces still controlled the town.

President Barack Obama was keeping a close watch on combat operations, White House spokesman Tommy Vietor said.

The president will get an update from his national security adviser, Gen. Jim Jones, later Saturday. Vietor said Defense Secretary Robert Gates will also have the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, brief Obama on Sunday morning.

UN: Time needed to resume NKorea nuclear talks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A top U.N. envoy said Saturday it could take some time before North Korea rejoins stalled international talks aimed at ending its nuclear weapons programs.

North Korea, believed to have enough weaponized plutonium for at least a half dozen bombs, walked away from disarmament-for-aid negotiations and conducted a second nuclear test last year, drawing tightened U.N. sanctions.

North Korea has called for a lifting of the sanctions and peace talks formally ending the 1950-53 Korean War before it returns to the disarmament talks, which also involve South Korea, the U.S., China, Russia and Japan.

"This process is a negotiated one and they are talking. My impression is that these talks may go on for a bit of time as they decide to get back," U.N. political chief B. Lynn Pascoe told reporters in Seoul after visiting Pyongyang, North Korea's capital.

Pascoe, the highest-ranking U.N. diplomat to visit the North since 2004, earlier said he made it quite clear to the North Koreans that "we wanted the talks to be re-engaged very quickly to move forward and without preconditions."

His comments came amid a flurry of diplomatic efforts to revive the nuclear negotiations, including a trip in recent days by North Korean nuclear envoy Kim Kye Gwan to Beijing for talks with his Chinese counterpart.

The North's Foreign Ministry said in comments carried by its official Korean Central News Agency that "both sides had an in-depth discussion on the issue of boosting the (North Korea)-China relations and matters of speeding up the denuclearization of the peninsula."

Myanmar frees top opposition figure after 7 years

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's ruling junta released the deputy leader of the country's pro-democracy party from nearly seven years in detention, but offered no indication that he or still-detained party leader Aung San Suu Kyi would be allowed to take part in this year's elections.

The release Saturday of 82-year-old Tin Oo, who helped found the National League for Democracy with Suu Kyi, comes shortly before a U.N. envoy visits Myanmar, also known as Burma, to evaluate the regime's progress on human rights.

"The release of Tin Oo is very welcome, but we should not attach any political significance to the release," said Mark Farmaner, director of the rights group Burma Campaign UK. "Burmese democracy activists are regularly released when the generals want to score points with the international community, and are then arrested again later."

Speaking after police officers entered his house and announced his release, a defiant Tin Oo told reporters, "I will continue to work for democracy."

Tin Oo, whose latest term of detention expired Saturday, had spent nearly seven years in prison and under house arrest. The junta renewed his detention on an annual basis since his arrest in 2003.

Wearing the peach-colored traditional jacket of the league, Tin Oo said he was "very hopeful" Suu Kyi would also soon be released, noting in 1995 he was released from an earlier stint in prison not long before Suu Kyi herself was set free.

Tin Oo said he would ask authorities to allow him to visit Suu Kyi, and thanked the United Nations, European Union and others for pressing for his release.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Sri Lanka president pledges due process for rival

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's president promised to follow due process in the sedition investigation of the defeated presidential candidate and ex-army chief whose arrest has pushed the island nation into political turmoil. President Mahinda Rajapaksa assured a key opposition leader in a meeting Friday that the "rule of law must prevail" and the arrested general will be freed if the allegations against him are not proven, according to a statement on the president's Web site. Military police arrested Gen. Sarath Fonseka last Monday on sedition charges. The government initially said Fonseka was "plotting against the president while in the military ... with the idea of overthrowing the government."

Pakistan court strikes down president's order

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's Supreme Court suspended the presidential appointment of two top judges in an emergency ruling late Saturday that could cause a destabilizing clash between the judiciary and the unpopular, Western-backed government. As local media reported the country was headed into a political and judicial crisis following the decision, President Asif Ali Zardari's spokesman issued a statement dismissing rumors the government was planning to declare a state of emergency. The development will concern Pakistan's western allies who want the country to concentrate on battling al-Qaida and Taliban militants in the northwest. The stability of the nuclear-armed nation is also key to Washington's hopes of defeating the insurgency just across the border in Afghanistan.

14 Indian soldiers suspended over Kashmir killing

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Fourteen Indian border guards were suspended Saturday for suspected involvement in the shooting death of a teenager in the troubled Indian-ruled portion of Kashmir, an official said. The killing, the second death of a Kashmiri youth in a week, triggered massive anti-India street protests in the region, and prompted the federal government to order a probe. Residents alleged that the Feb. 5 shooting of 17-year-old Zahid Farooq was ordered by a senior officer of the Border Security Force, R.K. Birdi, who was suspended from duty along with 13 soldiers pending an inquiry, a BSF officer said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

World

Homeless Haiti quake victims get tarps, want tents

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Ask any of the hundreds of thousands of earthquake victims living outdoors in Haiti's shattered capital and you're apt to get the same plea: "Give us a tent."

Few will get one. Aid agencies and Haitian officials have given up plans to shelter the homeless in tents, even if that means many will likely face hurricane season camped out under flapping sheets of plastic.

Tents are too big, too costly and too inefficient, aid groups say. So Haitians must swelter under flimsy tarps until fixed shelters can be built—though no one believes nearly enough can be will be up in time for spring storms.

"A tent would give us more space. There are too many people in here," said Marie-Mona Destiron, sweating under the hot blue light of her family's donated plastic tarp. When it rains, she said, water slides through the gaps and turns the dirt floor to mud.

Destiron, 45, got her tarp from U.S. soldiers with the 82nd Airborne Division. Her husband, Joselin Edouard, tied it to a thin mahogany tree on a dusty slope below the country club that the soldiers use as a forward-operating base. It is home to them and their six children.

The Destiron family tarp site sits atop what passes for pretty good real estate in post-quake Port-au-Prince. The family is near where soldiers distribute food, though when helicopters land, it's blasted by dirt and leaves. They moved in the day after the Jan. 12 catastrophe shattered their concrete home.

AP

A child stands among makeshift tents at a refugee camp in the Cite Soleil neighborhood in Port-au-Prince, Saturday Feb. 13, 2010.

But theirs is a space prone to floods and mudslides. And come the spring rains—not to mention the hurricanes of summer and fall—they and many other Haitians are vulnerable.

International aid officials at first announced a campaign to put the homeless in tents and appealed for donations from around the world. Some 49,000 tents had reached Haiti when the government announced Wednesday it was opting for plastic sheets.

With an estimated 1.2 million people displaced by the earthquake—some 770,000 of them still in the capital—officials say there is no room for family-sized tents with their wide bases.

Besides, they are bulky and don't last long enough to justify their cost, the aid community has decided.

Further, the cluster of foreign and Haitian officials in charge of shelter decisions does not trust the mish-mash of aid organizations involved to buy the right ones.

It has issued a warning that only that those with "existing expertise in the procurement of humanitarian tents" should buy them, saying that after the 2005 Pakistan earthquake, 80 percent of tents distributed were not waterproof.

Instead the officials are mobilizing a plan they call the "shelter surge:"

■ By May 1, one plastic tarp will be given to each of about 250,000 displaced families.

■ Transitional shelters of 18 square meters (194 square feet), with corrugated iron roofs, will then be built. They will have earthquake- and storm-resistant frames of timber or steel and are supposed to last for three years.

Detained Americans seek distance from adviser

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A man who provided legal assistance to 10 jailed U.S. missionaries and who may be wanted for human trafficking in El Salvador was not known to the Americans' church group before their arrest, a relative said Saturday.

For that reason and because the adviser could not by law represent them in Haiti, lawyers for the missionaries argued, his legal troubles should have no bearing on whether the Baptists are released provisionally, as a judge has recommended.

Sean Lankford told The Associated Press that Jorge Puello first contacted relatives of the Americans by calling their church, Central Valley Baptist in Meridian, Idaho, after they were arrested on Jan. 29 trying to take 33 children out of Haiti.

They thought Puello, a yarmulke-wearing Jew from the Dominican Republic, was a good Samaritan and had no reason to doubt his intentions, said Lankford, whose wife and daughter are among the detained.

"He helped us find the lawyer we have now. He helped us gather evidence. Before him, we really were having a hard time finding anyone at all" to represent the missionaries in neighboring Haiti, said Lankford.

Puello never asked for money for himself but "was going to help us to pay the other attorneys. He was the guy who was going to hand money to lawyers," Lankford added in a phone interview Saturday.

Ban forces rivals of Iraqi PM to halt campaign

BAGHDAD (AP)—A political coalition led by one of the Iraqi prime minister's fiercest critics temporarily halted its campaign Saturday for next month's parliamentary elections after a number of its candidates were barred from running.

The country's already tense political atmosphere received another jolt late Saturday when blasts struck the offices of five parties—four of them Sunni—in Baghdad, wounding eleven people.

The back-and-forth political wrangling over the ban on more than 450 candidates for the March 7 vote has threatened to undermine Iraq's political stability, worrying U.S. officials that it could throw the credibility of the elections into question and undo security gains.

The Iraqi National Movement, led by former Shiite premier Ayad Allawi, suspended its campaign for three days while it attempts to negotiate the return of dozens of its candidates, spokesman Haydar al-Mulla said.

He said it was unclear how many of the coalition's candidates have been banned from running, but said election officials initially put the number at 72.

The biggest blow to the group was the loss of one of its leaders, Sunni lawmaker Saleh al-Mutlaq. Al-Mutlaq—a sharp critic of Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki—has acknowledged he was a Baathist until the late 1970s but quit the party. A panel confirmed the ban on al-Mutlaq earlier this week.

He and other prominent Sunnis have slammed the blacklist as an attempt by al-Maliki's Shiite-dominated government to sideline Sunnis, even though many Shiites have also been banned.

All but 177 of the 450 candidates on the blacklist either dropped out on their own or were replaced by their party. The head of Iraq's election commission, Faraj al-Haidari, said an appeals panel only cleared 26 names on the blacklist to run.

U.S. officials are deeply concerned the ban could threaten Iraq's political stability ahead of the withdrawal of American combat troops by the end of August.

Although violence has dropped sharply nationwide since 2007, the Iraqi government has warned there could be a spike in attacks ahead of the elections.

Saturday's blasts struck the offices or homes of at least five political parties, including al-Mutlaq's, two police officials said. The Sunni Youth Association and the home of a leader an independent Shiite party, al-Shaab, were also hit.

Eleven people were injured in the bombings, mostly bystanders or passing civilians, the officials said on because they are not authorized to release the information.

Tymoshenko calls Ukraine vote rigged

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko—apparently defeated by a narrow margin in last week's presidential vote—ended six days of silence Saturday by saying the election had been rigged and she would challenge the result in court.

Tymoshenko

Her statement seemed to confirm analyst expectations that she is digging in for a political standoff with her rival, Viktor Yanukovych, that could delay the transfer of power.

Preliminary results from the Feb. 7 ballot gave opposition leader Yanukovych a lead of just 3.5 percentage points. International observers called the election free and fair, but no winner has been officially declared, and Tymoshenko has refused to concede defeat.

She said Saturday she had evidence of fraud and would fight the result, for which the final count is to be announced on Wednesday.

"I have made the only decision I can make—to challenge the results in court," said Tymoshenko, appearing stoical and resolute during the five-minute televised appeal to the public. "Not going to the courts today would mean leaving Ukraine to criminals without a fight."

She asked Ukrainians to support her legal battle to overturn the elections, but urged them not to take to the streets in protest as demonstrations would destabilize the country.

Responding to Tymoshenko's appeal, the deputy chairwoman of Yanukovych's Party of Regions said the legal challenge has no hope of success.

"She just wants to push us into a negotiation so that we will give her something. But we don't negotiate about democracy," Anna German told The Associated Press. "This challenge only hurts the country's ability to begin reforms and deal with the financial crisis."

WORLD BRIEFS

At least 20 killed by electrocution in Nigeria

PORT HARCOURT, Nigeria (AP)—At least 20 bus passengers were killed in Nigeria on Saturday when a cable fell onto the bus and electrocuted people inside, police said. Police confirmed 20 deaths, but spokeswoman Rita Abbey said the toll could climb further. An Associated Press cameraman saw more than 10 bodies, some charred beyond recognition, at a local hospital in the provincial capital of Port Harcourt. Another 10 people were seen being treated for gashes and burns. Most of the dead had been passengers aboard the bus, though some had been passing nearby when the cable came tumbling down during heavy rains that have pummeled southern Nigeria.

Olympic protesters smash department store windows

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Police in riot gear confronted more than 200 masked protesters who hurled newspaper boxes through display windows of a popular department store selling Olympic souvenirs. Seven people were arrested after officers carrying clubs and shields quashed the downtown protest on the opening day of competition at the Vancouver Olympics. There were no immediate reports of injuries. Those arrested could face a variety of charges, including assault, Police Chief Jim Chu said. At least one could be charged with weapons possession for wrapping a bicycle chain around his fist and threatening passers-by. None of the protesters was immediately identified.

Neo-Nazis rally on Dresden bombing anniversary

DRESDEN, Germany (AP)—Thousands of protesters formed a human chain in Dresden on Saturday, determined to stop neo-Nazis from exploiting the German city's painful history on the 65th anniversary of its deadly Allied bombing in World War II. Heavy security including riot police was in place to prevent clashes between the two groups, and five police helicopters flew overhead to monitor the crowds. Neo-Nazis have caused outrage in the past by comparing the 1945 bombing of Dresden to the Holocaust. Organizers of a far-right protest Saturday characterized it as a "mourning march."

Health & Fitness

Gym workouts for skiers before hitting the slopes

By VICKY HALLETT
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Skiing hasn't particularly appealed to me; sharp poles, slippery surfaces and gravity never seemed like a friendly combination. But in honor of the Olympics, which kick off Friday in Vancouver, B.C., I decided it was finally time to take on a bunny slope.

I wanted to be as ready as possible, so my journey up the mountain started at the Washington Sports Clubs for the Black Diamond Workout, a new conditioning class that's meant to be attended well before you take a seat on a lift.

"Get ready for the slopes," announced the peppy instructor, Libby Linden Rubin, as she prepared our bodies for the upcoming downhill action with a series of squats. We then rotated through a series of one-minute exercise drills that tested our strength, cardiovascular capacity, stability and agility; and emphasized the lateral movement necessary for carving your way down a mountain.

To tone those inner and outer thighs, Rubin had us jump every which way through the rungs of a ladder spread out on the floor and leap right and left in a squat position while holding a medicine ball. "We're not as strong in that direction because we don't walk side to side," Rubin says. Her version of "moguls" involves standing on an unstable Bosu ball with your torso to the front and your lower body angled to one side, then hopping back and forth to switch directions.

We held plank pose, lifted our upper bodies like Superman while perched on stability balls and pulled a resistance band in a wood-chop motion to firm up our middles. For our lower bodies, we held our backs against the wall with our legs bent at a 90-degree angle — then grabbed a weight plate to hold above our heads.

The wall sit was certainly familiar to my classmate Richard Greenhouse, 60, of Rockville, Md., who always does the move to prep for his beloved ski trips. But the photographer had never felt it burn quite so much until he started studying with Rubin. "You do it more intently when she's watching you," he says. "I thought I was in shape. Now I know I wasn't."

I didn't feel quite ready either, so I headed to the Sports Club/LA to seek more advice on proper conditioning from personal trainer Rob Stuart, who will be attending the Vancouver Games. The Ironman competitor is serious about his snow seeking, and even he ups his workouts when a trip is on the horizon, with additional plyometric work (that means jumping) and intense stair-climbing. "The stronger your legs are, the safer you'll be," he says.

For his clients, he promotes push-ups and side planks to strengthen shoulders—for picking yourself up after a fall—and cycling classes to promote endurance. "That way, they're not as sore or tired, so they can enjoy après ski as well," Stuart adds.

He's also a fan of yoga for improving body awareness and range of motion. So I called Kimberly Wilson, the owner of the local Tranquil Space yoga studios, who started practicing yoga during her post-college year of being a waitress/ski bum in Colorado. Her advice: Do chair pose (starting from standing, bend your knees so your thighs are as close to parallel with the ground as possible). "It's everyone's dreaded pose, but you're in it the whole way down the mountain," she says.

Maybe she is. When my husband and I finally made our way to Whitetail Resort in Pennsylvania, I learned that my initial default poses were flat on my back or in a heap. Over the next few hours, I learned how to stay upright on my way off a lift and make it down a gradual gradient somewhat gracefully. When I knew I was done for the day, it wasn't because I didn't have any power left in my legs—it was because I had an entire snowdrift inside my pants.

My lesson for next time? Keep up the conditioning and make sure I bring a belt.

Healthy Living

The pharaohs' wheat

Once a staple for ancient Egyptians and Romans, farro is making a comeback.

The grain that fed an empire

- Farro, a cousin of modern wheat and relative of spelt, was grown for centuries throughout the Near East
- After his invasion of Egypt, Julius Caesar brought it to Italy where it fed the Roman legions, was popular with Italians for centuries
- Fell out of favor in modern times, replaced by higher-yield wheat
- Its tasty, nutty flavor and nutritional values – rich in fiber and protein, tolerated by many with gluten allergies – are contributing to its resurgence
- Can be eaten risotto-style, polenta-style or used to make pasta, pastries

Source: About.com, Lilikoi Specialty Foods, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Pat Carr

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Learning from Olympic skiiers

By VICKY HALLETT
(C) 2010, THE WASHINGTON POST

For a quick and cheap ski lesson, just turn on your TV, says Robin Barnes, a member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America's alpine demonstration team. Here's what to look for while watching Olympic athletes go for the gold.

– Stance

Barnes' students often think at first that skiing is sticking your feet together and moving your hips. "In reality, you're trying not to wiggle your hips," she says.

– Movement

Another misconception is that you should push your downhill leg away from you to use the edge of your skis. Notice that the pros are moving their bodies away from their skis instead. (To try this, stand with feet planted and tilt your body to one side to feel how your weight shifts naturally.)

– Arms

"Look at how far ahead of their bodies their arms are," Barnes says. Instead of stuck to the athletes' sides, they're out in front for balance.

– Eyes

None of the skiers will be gazing at their feet, because it's important to anticipate what's coming up. "And I love when the athletes are in the start and they have that look of determination in their faces," Barnes says. Now that's something you can work on even if you'll never end up at the Olympics.

Nail biting can be hard habit to break; behavioral techniques can help

By CAROLYN BUTLER
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

My friend Katie has a dirty little secret that's actually fairly obvious: Ever since childhood, she has bitten her nails to the quick, often until the cuticles bleed, especially when she's nervous or bored. This successful 43-year-old marketing executive can't seem to stop, no matter how many foul-tasting potions she paints on her fingernails or how many disapproving stares and lectures she receives from friends, relatives and the odd passer-by.

"The irony is that it's the first thing I notice with other people: their hands, then their teeth and their shoes," Katie says. "I can't help thinking about how terrible it looks, and how disgusting it is that you just touched things a million other people have touched and now you're putting that finger in your mouth. Clearly, I know it's a terrible habit. But I don't know how to break myself of it."

Chronic nail biting, or onychophagia, most commonly begins in childhood and peaks in adolescence before tapering off. Studies have found the habit in 28 percent to 33 percent of children ages 7 to 10, 44 percent of adolescents, and 19 percent to 29 percent of young adults.

"It's a lot more common than one might think," Baltimore County psychiatrist Carol Watkins says. "The incidence gradually declines into adulthood, but we're still talking about 10 to 20 percent of grown men and women who continue to bite their nails." The behavior occurs across continents and cultures, and is slightly more prevalent among males than females, Watkins says.

While it may seem like a fairly innocuous and unconscious habit, there can be ramifications, Washington dermatologist Ella Toombs says.

"It is definitely unsanitary, facilitating germ transfer from the hands and nails to the mouth," she says before shooting down a range of urban legends, such as the notion that chewed-off nails end up in your appendix, where they can cause appendicitis. "There are no real, serious, long-term medical problems caused by biting your nails, but it can be unattractive, (leading to) cosmetically unacceptable fingernail beds, with lots of redness of tissue and swelling and even scarring, in the worst cases. This type of broken skin is also more susceptible to infections."

Many people bite their nails at various points in their lives, but it's unclear why.

"Initially people thought it had to do with an oral fixation—the Freudian view—but that's no longer popular opinion," Watkins says. "Older studies tend to talk about psychological reasons, while newer ones look at behavioral and biochemical kinds of things, such as whether (nail biting) is caused by a relative of obsessive-compulsive disorder." Some experts think there's a genetic link, since it often runs in families, while others believe it's an exaggerated grooming behavior, similar to what's seen in animals such as chimps.

There is definitely a comfort or stress-relief aspect for many, Watkins says. The cause "may be different in different people. You really have to look at the individual. For some people it's associated with anxiety, for example, but other studies have shown that people who bite their nails aren't that anxious."

Most people can stop with simple behavioral techniques, on their own or with help from family members or a professional.

The key is to become aware of exactly when and where you're biting your nails, says Watkins, who suggests keeping a journal to identify triggers such as feeling nervous, being in the car or absentmindedly watching TV.

Reminders such as wearing a bracelet that jingles when your hand gets close to your mouth can increase awareness. "Once you actually realize you're doing it, then you can avoid triggers and set up competing behaviors, whether it's a relaxation technique like meditation or something else you can do instead with your hands," Watkins explains, recommending needlepoint, a stress ball or just sitting on your hands. Keeping nails short, so there's less to bite, and treating yourself to a regular manicure or wearing gloves can help.

If all else fails, you can turn to the Internet's favorite cure: bitter liquids painted on the nails that are tinged with Tabasco sauce or other peppery flavors, though that can backfire for those who learn to like the taste. Medications such as Prozac and others used to treat OCD are typically a very last resort, say experts, and only for the most severe cases in which nail biting may indicate a larger psychological problem.

Life & Style

Can't miss if you seek a kiss at Rio Carnival

AP

Revelers kiss during the Banda de Ipanema parade in Rio de Janeiro, Saturday, Feb.13, 2010.

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A kiss is just a kiss, but at Rio's Carnival, collecting as many pecking partners as possible at one of the 650 massive street parties that hit high gear on Saturday is truly a competitive sport.

Wearing a pink bikini top, flower-print miniskirt and a face dabbed with silver glitter, Taline Pereira was not shy about getting to the heart of what drives the parties—known as "blocos"—that in some cases draw upward of 1 million people.

"I traveled thousands of kilometers to come to my first Rio Carnival," said the 18-year-old student from Brazil's northeast. "Of course I'm going to kiss as many boys as possible."

Yet Brazilians don't want anyone to get the wrong idea about the widespread kissing known as "ficar," which literally means "to stay." It is an innocent game, they say, in which touching a woman anywhere outside the small of her back draws a red card—if not a slap.

Like the most intricate of courtship rituals, it involves rules and subtle, nonverbal cues that an ambitious man or woman must understand to have a successful outing—defined by Pereira as "maybe kissing 12 boys—or just one if he is a really good kisser."

There are no winners, official or otherwise, though many play for bragging rights.

Informal polling found members of both sexes claiming to have kissed more than 10 partners at least once during Carnival.

Rafael Salathiel, 18, standing with a group of pals at a Friday bloco aptly named "Come to me, I'm easy," said he has long history of "kissing as many girls as I want during Carnival."

For most of the 700,000 tourists who have invaded Rio, the blocos are the focus of Carnival leading up to the flamboyant samba parades Sunday and Monday.

Each has its own character. Some are for journalists, others attract a gay crowd, many see a strong teenage contingent and still others are for young children.

But all—minus, perhaps, the bloco for youngsters and one just for dogs and cats—include an abundance of beer, a dire lack of clothing and rampant canoodling.

While Brazil's government proudly announced it would hand out 55 million condoms for Carnival, there were no warnings issued for contagious diseases contracted by kissing.

"It starts like this: You look at a guy. Really look at him. He comes over, starts with his talk, and if there is chemistry then it's going to roll," Pereira said. "It doesn't matter if he is cute or not if there is an energy."

Lucas de Souza, 17, puffed up like a peacock while giving the male perspective on the game.

"I come at them with attitude and a great talk," Souza said. "You really have to talk well with a Brazilian girl. Anyway, if I'm confident, I might touch her hair, her arm and then try for a kiss."

As he spoke, his buddies let fly the low half-whistle, half-hiss that Brazilian men seem gifted with at birth to gain a woman's attention in a crowd.

And if that kiss should miss?

"Look around, this place is full of girls," he said. "If a girl rejects me, she is bound to have a friend who won't."

Luisa Castro, 17, started to give her interpretation of what the game of "ficar" meant when she paused and narrowed her eyes.

"Wait, wait ... is this going to be one of those articles that makes Brazilian women look bad?" she asked. "Because you really shouldn't exaggerate this thing."

She defended smooching as many boys as possible during Carnival, saying it's far milder than displays during Mardi Gras on New Orleans streets—where women routinely bare their breasts to win a strand of beads.

"There is some romance to it, it's not vulgar like what we see American women doing," the precocious high school student said. "They show everything. Which is gross."

Still, the widespread public displays of affection surprised foreigners visiting for the first time.

"I like affection, but when I see this I just say, 'get a room,' " said 33-year-old Destine Georgio, visiting from Adelaide, Australia.

Her friend Magdalena Kotsikas, a 25-year-old native of Buenos Aires—another renowned redoubt of public snogging—took offense.

"You know we make fun of foreigners who use that phrase," she said.

All the smooching does not set right with Maria Helena Meurer, 65, who was born and raised in Ipanema and stood at the edge of the "Come to me, I'm easy" bloco, lips pursed—but not for kissing.

"This kissing game didn't exist when I was young," she said. "It's the drugs, you know. It makes these kids lose all inhibitions."

But didn't Carnivals five decades ago have any sort of risque fun?

"During the Carnivals of my youth, we played around, but we did so with respect. You would be hard-pressed to get a kiss in the street," she said.

"My husband courted me for seven years before we were married and I did so as a virgin," she added. "Try finding one of those in this crowd."

McQueen's death hurts London fashion scene

AP

Flowers are seen under a logo of British fashion designer Alexander McQueen and a note informing customers of his death at his shop in central London, Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010.

LONDON (AP)—Yes, there are other big names: Vivienne Westwood, Stella McCartney and Paul Smith come to mind. But the sudden death of Alexander McQueen leaves a gaping hole at the center of London's fashion universe.

McQueen was Britain's shooting star, a man who helped make London cool again in the 1990s. And his personal history helped inspire others.

The son of a London cabbie, the youngest of six siblings, McQueen was a product of the streets, not a posh dilettante with a wealthy family to back his fashion whims.

Now he is gone, due to an apparent suicide that has not been confirmed by his family or the police. And fashion insiders don't see any heir apparent to the enfant terrible who turned catwalk shows into memorable works of performance art.

"I don't see anyone on his level," said Kate Brindley, spokeswoman for the Liberty store, where sales of McQueen's signature scarves have increased 14 fold in the last day. "His vision was completely unique, that's why he was so successful commercially and so well respected in the industry."

She said McQueen forged a path for other emerging designers, urging them by example to remain true to their visions. His impact was magnified, she said, by the fact that he kept his businesses based in London even though he showed his work primarily in Paris.

"He's still very much a British designer, in terms of his rebellious feeling," she said. "He created this tremendous international fashion brand, but he never lost sight of what made him who he was." The McQueen store in central London remained closed Friday, with lilies and roses in the window in memory of the designer. Some devoted mourners also placed flowers and candles outside the shop on London's upscale Bond Street.

The fashion house's offices worldwide are now asking all journalists who were given sample garments in the past to ship them back to the company's headquarters because of concerns that they would be sold for high prices on Web sites such as eBay, which has already seen a spike in the number of listings of Alexander McQueen items, from 63 on Monday to a little over 900 on Friday.

The company said hundreds of the items—including clothing, shoes and other accessories from current and past collections—have been recalled to keep the McQueen legacy secure.

Meanwhile, plans continued for London Fashion Week, set to begin next Friday, but the mood is expected to be somber as many offer tributes to McQueen, whose early London shows helped put the event week on the international fashion calendar.

"His death will cast a real pall over London Fashion Week," said Hadley Freeman, fashion columnist for the Guardian newspaper. "He was a real inspiration to young fashion students. There is not a single student in the last 10 years who didn't cite him."

She said McQueen's working-class background and his liberal use of street and punk influences had a democratizing effect on British fashion.

"He hadn't shown in London for a while now, but he was so intrinsically associated with British fashion, he was the reason Britain got kickstarted, got cool, in the '90s," she said.

Polanski film debuts, Swiss vow no extradition yet

GENEVA (AP)—Roman Polanski's new film has premiered in Berlin and Swiss authorities have pledged not to extradite him to the U.S. as long as his appeal on a sex case was still being considered in Los Angeles.

Friday was a banner day for the director. Compared to the last four months being under arrest in Switzerland, it was a win-win.

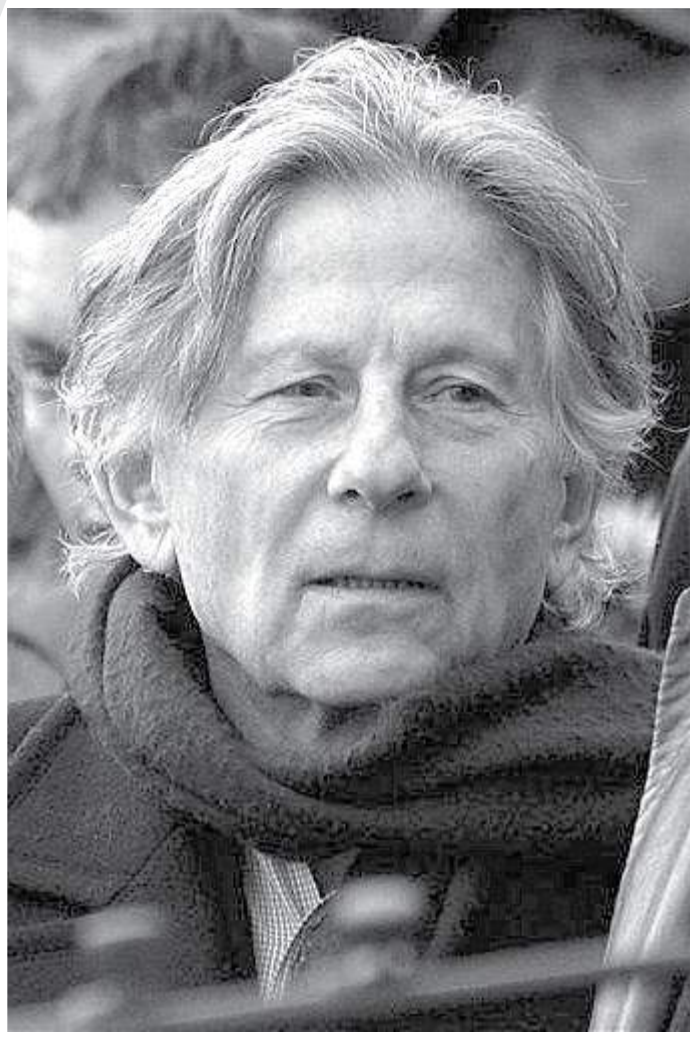
Polanski could not walk the red carpet at the Berlin film festival Friday night for the debut of his movie "The Ghost Writer," starring Ewan McGregor and Pierce Brosnan, because he is under house arrest. But he was still the star of the party, feted by the movie's actors, producer and screenplay writer.

And in a new twist to his long legal saga, the Swiss Justice Ministry declared it would make "no sense" to shift Polanski from house arrest at his Alpine chalet until U.S. courts ruled definitively that he must be sentenced in person to further jail time for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl.

"When the question is still open, why should he be extradited?" Rudolf Wyss, the ministry's deputy director, told The Associated Press. "As long as the question is still open, our decision depends on that."

"Even if we decide on extradition, he can still appeal. This would take many months," Wyss added.

Polanski's extradition is a complicated and diplomatically sensitive decision, as it deals with a three-decade-old case full of alleged wrongdoing by a Los Angeles judge, a confused sentencing procedure and the director's own flight from justice.



AP

This is a Jan. 15, 2009 file photo, of film director Roman Polanski in Montrouge, France.

There is also Polanski's status as a cultural icon in France and Poland, where he holds dual citizenship, and his history as a Holocaust survivor whose first wife was brutally murdered by crazed followers of cult leader Charles Manson in California.

Loyola University law Professor Laurie Levenson, who has followed the case closely, said the next move appears to be up to Polanski, who has the option to waive extradition.

"The Swiss authorities want to know what Polanski's sentence will be and the Los Angeles courts won't tell them until he comes back. It's a bit of a standoff."

She said that Polanski can keep fighting extradition, but will remain under house arrest indefinitely.

"Mr. Polanski may be able to sit in his Swiss chalet forever," she said. "But if he wants to get out he may have to come back and be sentenced by the California court even though he might get a sentence that would not have required him to come back in the first place. This is a chicken and egg problem."

Polanski's lawyers say the 76-year-old filmmaker served his full sentence in 1978 when he underwent a court-ordered diagnostic study at a California prison for 42 days. Los Angeles courts have disagreed and Polanski's lawyers have promised to appeal in their hopes to have him sentenced in absentia or have the case dropped.

Swiss legal experts said it looked increasingly possible that the Oscar-winning director of "Rosemary's Baby," "Chinatown" and "The Pianist" could beat extradition.

"The chance has increased, especially as he's been here for such a long time," said Dieter Jann, a former Zurich prosecutor. "It's not even clear if the Americans want him anymore."

Wyss spoke to The AP hours before a press conference in Berlin to unveil Polanski's newest film based on a novel by Robert Harris, in which Brosnan stars as former British Prime Minister Adam Lang, a character likened to Tony Blair, and McGregor plays a reporter hired to help write his memoirs.

The movie, Polanski's first since "Oliver Twist" in 2005, was nearly finished when he was arrested Sept. 26 as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award from a film festival. The director kept working on the film during his two months in a Swiss jail and later under house arrest in his chalet in the luxury Swiss resort of Gstaad, after he posted $4.5 million bail in December and agreed to wear an electronic ankle monitor.

"It's a great pity he's not here to launch the film with us, because I feel like he's as responsible for my performance in this film as I am," McGregor said at the press conference in Berlin, where the cast largely steered clear of the director's legal issues.

"Roman continued to work on the film through courier packages that we sent to him in prison," producer Robert Benmussa said in Berlin. "Then, when he was in his chalet, he continued to work on the movie, putting the last touches."

"The Ghost Writer," based on the novel by Robert Harris, is one of 20 films competing for the Berlin festival's top Golden Bear honor, being awarded Feb. 20.

Harris, who wrote the screenplay along with Polanski, said the director had been keen to shift gears and make a thriller. "The Ghost Writer" is the story of a former leader dogged by allegations that he allowed the illegal seizure of suspected terrorists.

Vogue uses celebs to send e-mails to subscribers

NEW YORK (AP)—Vogue subscribers may have noticed an e-mail from Tina Fey in their inbox.

It wasn't not spam!

Well, not really.

The fashion magazine sent out a note from the actress promoting her cover shoot for its March issue.

With a subject line that reads "My Vogue cover," Fey used her self-deprecating humor to describe her experience of appearing in Vogue. She compared it to things you might expect to see only once in your lifetime—such as Halley's Comet and the eruption of Mount St. Helens volcano.

"If you've always wondered what it would be like if the talented people of Prada, Gucci, Dolce & Gabanna, and Vogue gave your 40-year-old sister-in-law a makeover, then this is the issue for you," writes Fey.

The promotion includes links to renew a Vogue subscription and to give one as a gift.

At a time when the publishing industry is in a slump, magazines rely heavily on subscriptions for ad revenue. They generally give a discount to potential subscribers to boost the overall circulation they can promise advertisers.

This isn't the first time the magazine has sent out an e-mail on behalf of a celebrity cover model. A similar mailing went out from Jessica Biel to promote her February 2010 cover.

Vogue says the initiative is a hit with subscribers.

The March 2010 issue of Vogue goes on sale Tuesday.

Lucille Clifton, award-winning poet, dies at 73

BALTIMORE (AP)—Lucille Clifton, a National Book Award-winning poet and Pulitzer finalist, has died. She was 73.

Clifton's sister, Elaine Philip of Buffalo, N.Y., said the former poet laureate of Maryland passed away Saturday morning at Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore.

Philip said the cause of death was unclear but Clifton was hospitalized for an infection last week at a hospital in Columbia, Md., before being transferred to Baltimore.

The native of Depew, N.Y., won the National Book Award in 2000 for "Blessing the Boats: New and Selected Poems 1988-2000." She was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1988.

Survivors include three daughters, a son and three grandchildren. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Stuntman and actor Bobby Hoy dies at 82

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bobby Hoy, a stuntman and actor known for his way with horses in Westerns like "Bonanza" and "The High Chaparral," has died. He was 82.

His wife, Kiva, tells the Los Angeles Times that Hoy died Monday of cancer at Northridge Hospital Medical Center.

From 1949 to 2005, Hoy acted and performed stunts in more than 150 productions, including the films "Spartacus," "Operation Petticoat" and "The Defiant Ones."

Hoy co-founded the Stuntmen's Assn. of Motion Pictures, which helped professionalize stunts, according to its Web site.

Besides Kiva, his wife of 22 years, Hoy is survived by a son, Christopher.

Fifth Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of

Justice Pedro "Pete" Manglona Atalig

We cordially invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 5th death anniversary of our dearly beloved son, husband, father, and grandfather.

Daily Masses will be offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00am starting February 8-17th.

Masses will also be held on February 13th (Saturday) at 6am and on the 14th (Sunday) at 6:00pm at Kristo Rai Church, Saipan and at 9:00am at Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Saipan.

Daily Masses will be offered at San Francisco De Borja Church in Rota from Feb.8-16th at 6:00am and Sunday 8:00am at San Isidro Church, Sinapalo, Rota at 7:00pm except Sunday at 10:00am.

A Special Mass intention will be celebrated at San Francisco de Borja Church, Songsong Village, Rota, on February 16, 2010 at 6:00am, after which breakfast shall be served at Rota Roundhouse

A Special Mass will also be celebrated on Thursday, February 18th at Kristo Rai Church, Garapan, Saipan at 6:00am, after which breakfast shall be served at Kristo Rai Church Social Hall.

Nightly rosary shall be offered at the family's residence in Capital Hill, Saipan, at 7:00pm.

Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Maraming Salamat Po, Thank You Very Much.

From:

Anita Dela Cruz Manglona Atalig (mother)
Nelida "Nel" Bisnar Atalig(wife) and children

Scorsese, DiCaprio join again in 'Shutter Island'

BERLIN (AP)—Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio celebrated nearly a decade working together as they presented the director's latest film, "Shutter Island," at the Berlin film festival Saturday.

Based on a novel by "Mystic River" author Dennis Lehane, the 1950s psychological thriller is the fourth film pairing Scorsese with DiCaprio, after "Gangs of New York" (2002), "The Aviator" (2004) and the Oscar-winning "The Departed" (2006).

"Each experience has been unique. It's been a progression, now it's been 10 years," DiCaprio, 35, said at a news conference with the director as their new film premiered out of competition in Berlin.

The two heaped praise on one another, with DiCaprio saying "the biggest gift that he's given me is an appreciation for cinema and cinema's history, and an entirely new perspective on my view of this art form."

"I grew up on his work, really," he said. "As a younger actor, you'd be a fool not to jump at the opportunity to work with somebody who I consider and many consider the definitive director of our time."

AP

U.S. director Martin Scorsese and U.S. actor Leonardo DiCaprio pose at the photo call for the film 'Shutter Island' at the International Film Festival Berlinale in Berlin, Germany, Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010.

The 67-year-old director, for his part, said working with DiCaprio has lead to a special relationship.

"Trust is really the key" and was built up over time, Scorsese said, adding that they "really reached a kind of comradeship in 'The Departed.'"

"I see him as a young man developing as a wonderful actor," he said. "I'm very happy to be around when this is happening with somebody with such extraordinary talent, to be able to focus that and perfect it."

"Shutter Island" also stars Ben Kingsley, Patricia Clarkson, Mark Ruffalo and Michelle Williams. It is set in 1954, a time of Cold War paranoia, when Scorsese himself was growing up. It follows the investigation into the disappearance of a murderess from a mental institution on an island. DiCaprio plays a U.S. Marshal in Boston looking for the woman, and his involvement in the case starts to make him question his own sanity.

"This was a complex jigsaw puzzle of emotional back stories and dream sequences and truth and fiction," DiCaprio said. "It was challenging and fulfilling."

Scorsese said he was attracted to the material in part "because it's set in the 50s and because of the tone of fear and paranoia and secrecy and trauma."

"I grew up during the 50s, I grew up during the Cold War, I grew up expecting air raids every day," he said. "That's what we were told."

Scorsese and DiCaprio may not be done collaborating yet.

"We're always talking about different projects," DiCaprio said. "If I'm lucky enough to work with him, I would consider it a gift."

Naomi Campbell wows catwalk crowd at charity show

AP

Helena Christensen, center left, and Naomi Campbell, center right, appear with friends at the conclusion of the Naomi Campbell's Fashion For Relief - Haiti fashion benefit, shown during Fashion Week in New York, Friday, Feb. 12, 2010.

NEW YORK (AP)—Naomi Campbell called together her model, designer and celebrity friends to put on a fundraiser Friday night for the relief effort in Haiti, but the most poignant moments of this event, held as part of New York Fashion Week, was the finale tribute to Alexander McQueen.

McQueen was discovered dead on Thursday in London. While he wasn't known to have many close friends in the fashion industry, Campbell, a fellow Brit, was in his inner circle. At the end of the runway show, Campbell walked backstage with tears in her eyes and clutching the hand of fellow model Angela Lindvall.

The last seven outfits in Fashion for Relief were McQueen's, modeled by Campbell, Helena Christensen and Karen Elson, among others—all wearing impossibly high heels by the designer, including one pair of platforms that didn't actually have any heels.

Everything seen on the catwalk at the Bryant Park tents will be sold on the Net-a-Porter Web site, beginning March 15. There is something for all tastes, ranging from the snakelike McQueen cocktail dresses to mens' tuxedos. Gold lame gown? Check. Magenta trench coat? Check.

Black catsuit with thigh-high boots? Double check.

The clothes, though, were secondary here. The audience—mostly paying ticketholders instead of the editors, stylists and retailers that normally fill the seats at fashion shows—applauded loudest for celebrities like Chris Brown and Kelly Osbourne, and designers Donna Karan, Diane von Furstenberg and Georgina Chapman of Marchesa. Actor Alan Cumming wore a kilt, and Duchess of York Sarah Ferguson took a spin in a black gown with gold beading after doing an opening speech about charities such as CARE and the White Ribbon Alliance that fight maternal mortality.

She praised Campbell as a loyal and generous friend. "When Naomi Campbell calls you and says, `Hi Fergie, can you turn up on the 12th?' You turn up on the 12th," she said.

Models who rarely strut anymore, including Maggie Rizer and Agyness Deyn, strapped on their stilettos, too, with the audience cheering on Deyn when she fell twice wearing towering Burberry sandals.

But the crowd clearly came to see Campbell, who did not disappoint. The 39-year-old showed why she was once queen of the catwalk, making a short, black sequined flapper dress practically do its own dance.

Campbell said before the show that she's always nervous before walking the runway, "but just doubly nervous" for the relief show because she had depended on friends to collaborate and wanted everyone to enjoy it.

American Express, which sponsored the show, said 950 tickets—at $100-$150 each—were sold out within three days.

Networks' use of luge video disturbs some

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC and other networks were criticized Saturday for broadcasting the disturbing video of a Georgian luger who died after flying off the track and slamming into a steel beam during an Olympic training run.

NBC said callers complained and Twitter was aflame with disgust. Much of the criticism centered on the network showing the footage at the beginning of its coverage of Friday's opening ceremony for the Vancouver Games, even though video of Nodar Kumaritashvili's death aired on the ABC, CBS and NBC evening news programs.

News organizations frequently weigh the imperative of depicting the reality of the world they cover with concerns about whether images would be too disturbing for the public. In this case, the networks warned viewers and used the video. NBC, in a departure from its usual policy of holding onto video because it is the U.S. Olympics rightsholder, let other networks use it.

"We owe folks a warning here," NBC News anchor Brian Williams said at the beginning of his network's coverage of the opening ceremony Friday. "These pictures are very tough for some people to watch."

Similar warnings were offered by Diane Sawyer and Maggie Rodriguez on the ABC and CBS newscasts. On the "CBS Evening News," the video was shown three times -the last in slow motion. Although NBC muffled the sound of the accident, elsewhere the thudding clank of Kumaritashvili hitting the steel beam was audible.

The warnings weren't enough for Matthew T. Sussman, sports editor of Blogcritics Magazine, who wrote, "so it's anyone's fault for feeling nauseous or traumatized by what they saw. And it really is a terrible clip."

AP

In this three image combination frame grab taken from video provided by the IOC Media Broadcast, Georgian luge athlete Nodar Kumaritashvili loses control of sled and crashes during a high-speed training run at the Olympic Sliding Center in Whistler, British Columbia, Friday Feb. 12, 2010.

Kim Hartman, a freelance writer from Charleston, W.Va., wrote on a CNN posting that NBC should be ashamed for airing it at the opening of the Olympics.

"I hope that young man's family and friends and countrymen and women and children survive the trauma that you chose to expose them to," Hartman wrote. "You have ruined my games by embedding that image into my mind as the first thing I will recall and perhaps the only thing I will recall that occurred in Vancouver at the 2010 Olympic Games."

The story "could have been told perfectly accurately and well without NBC's 'Faces of Death' moment," blogger Dana Pico wrote. An NBC executive involved in the decision was not immediately available for comment.

The decisions to air the video, which also appeared on NBC's Olympics Web site and elsewhere online, were interesting in the context of caution elsewhere. Many TV networks, for instance, did not show images of people jumping from the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

Journalists have been criticized by some for not conveying the realities of America's two wars. It became an issue last fall, for example, when The Associated Press distributed a still picture of a mortally wounded U.S. Marine in an Afghanistan battlefield and was criticized for it by the U.S. defense secretary.

Bob Steele, an expert on media ethics at DePauw University, said Saturday he hoped the networks gave careful thought to their decisions.

"Clearly it was a failure if they just said, 'Wow, look at that, let's put it up.' Or 'the other networks are using it, let's put it up,'" Steele said.

He was also concerned that distance was a factor: a TV network might be more willing to air such a video with the victim from the republic of Georgia, and less so if an American had been killed.

Pickup hits bus carrying country singer's band

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP)—Authorities in north Louisiana say two people in a pickup truck were killed when the truck ran head-on into a tour bus carrying members of country singer Trace Adkins' band.

Cindy Chadwick of the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office says five band members were treated for minor injuries in the Saturday morning accident.

Adkins was not on the bus. Chadwick says he drove to the scene after hearing about the accident.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known.

Chadwick says a witness had seen the pickup truck weaving in traffic. The truck crossed the center line of U.S. Highway 71 and ran into the bus around 9:30 a.m.

'We Are the World' debuts, worldwide airing set

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The revamped "We Are the World" made its world premiere Friday during NBC's coverage of the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics, and a simultaneous worldwide screening of the full, seven-minute version of the music video is planned for Saturday.

The worldwide simulcast on 53 domestic and international channels is planned for 2 p.m. Eastern time.

A three-minute version of the video aired Friday. Filmed by Oscar winner Paul Haggis, the video shows images of devastation from the island nation after the January 12 earthquake that has claimed more than 200,000 lives.

It also shows some of the 85 artists who gathered in Los Angeles earlier this month to re-record the 1985 charity anthem.

Teen sensation Justin Bieber opens the song. Also featured are Jennifer Hudson and Nicole Scherzinger, Sugarland singer Jennifer Nettles, Barbra Streisand, Celine Dion and Fergie. Josh Groban, LL Cool J, Nick Jonas, Lil Wayne (and his autotune), Jeff Bridges, Kanye West, Miley Cyrus and Haitian-American singer Wyclef Jean also get screen time.

Michael Jackson, who co-wrote the original hit with Lionel Richie, is shown in a clip from the original music video. In the new version, Jackson, wearing his trademark 1980s pseudomilitary regalia, sings alongside his sister, Janet Jackson.

Richie and fellow producer Quincy Jones introduced the song Friday via video, saying money raised by its sales will provide food, shelter and medicine for the Haitian people.

Fans can download "We Are the World 25 for Haiti" online now. All proceeds will benefit earthquake recovery efforts in Haiti.

AP

This 1985 black and white file photo shows Lionel Richie, clockwise from left, Daryl Hall, Quincy Jones, Paul Simon and Stevie Wonder record "We Are The World" by USA for Africa.

Malawian government backs Madonna's school

BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP)—In a land dispute pitting Madonna against African villagers, Malawi's government has sided with the pop star who has pumped millions into this impoverished southern African country and adopted two of its children.

Villagers have been refusing to move from a plot of land near the capital, Lilongwe, where Madonna wants to build a $15 million school for girls. The government, however, says it had originally planned to develop the plot, and only allowed the villagers to live there until a project was identified.

Thursday, Lilongwe District Commissioner Charles Kalemba, accompanied by other government officials and representatives from Madonna's Raising Malawi charity, met with about 200 villagers and told them they would have to move. The villagers have been offered other government land.

"Government allowed you to occupy this land because there was no project yet. But now that Madonna wants to build you a school you have to give way," Kalemba told the villagers. "You are lucky that Madonna has compensated you for your houses, gardens and trees."

Anjimile Mtila-Oponyo, who will be principal of Madonna's school, said the singer paid the villagers more than 16 million kwacha (about $115,000) to compensate them for their houses—mostly mud-and-thatch structures—and improvements such as gardens and trees.

Headman Binson Chikhota urged residents to move, saying the school would benefit their children. But Amos Mkuyu said the $1,500 in compensation he received from Madonna for mango trees and three homes was not enough. He said his family had been living on his seven-acre (three-hectare) plot for three generations.

The villagers are bitter, he said, but "there is nothing much we can do because government is using threats."

Mtila-Oponyo, the principal, said the school project was going ahead.

"We stalled for some months because of the land dispute," she said. "We are now in full swing and we intend to meet the 2011 deadline we set for ourselves."

According to its masterplan, the Raising Malawi Academy for Girls will be constructed with modern environment-friendly techniques, including solar panels for generating electricity. Mtila-Oponyo said the academy will serve 500 girls, mainly from underprivileged households.

"The academy will have a strong emphasis on sciences because it is the dream of Madonna that Malawi should train its own scientists and doctors to help the vulnerable Malawian girls and women who die needlessly because of lack of local expertise," she said.

Madonna adopted a daughter from Malawi last year and a son in 2008. Her Raising Malawi, a charity founded in 2006 when she first visited the country, helps feed, educate and provide medical care for orphans. In this nation of 12 million, about 500,000 children have lost a parent to AIDS.

Her adoptions raised concern among children's welfare groups, who questioned whether rules meant to protect children were being bent because of Madonna's celebrity, and perhaps out of gratitude for what she has done for Malawi.

While her 2008 adoption went relatively smoothly, a lower court at first rejected her bid to adopt her daughter, saying Madonna had not spent enough time in Malawi.

That case went to the nation's highest court. In June, a three-judge panel that included Chief Justice Lovemore Munlo said the initial rejection was a narrow interpretation based on old laws. The ruling that allowed her to adopt also cited the singer's commitment to helping disadvantaged children.

AP

Madonna arrives to meet with Sao Paulo's Governor Jose Serra in Sao Paulo, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010.

Madonna to appear on 'The Marriage Ref'

NEW YORK (AP)—Maybe she will have advice on what not to do in a marriage.

Madonna, who's been divorced twice, is going to be on "The Marriage Ref."

Madonna's spokeswoman Liz Rosenberg confirmed Saturday that Madonna would make an appearance on the upcoming reality show, where celebrities and a referee try to help couples in conflict. The episode has not yet been taped and Rosenberg did not have further details.

Madonna has been married twice, once to Sean Penn and most recently to Guy Ritchie.

The "Marriage Ref" will debut on NBC after the Olympics.

Woman sues Anderson Cooper after fall at NYC home

In this Dec. 6, 2007 file photo, CNN anchor Anderson Cooper arrives at the CNN Heroes Awards in New York.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—An interior designer is suing CNN anchor Anderson Cooper after she took an unusual fall at an old New York City firehouse that he is converting into a new home.

Killian O'Brien, of Brooklyn, says in her suit that she plunged 17 feet through the hole that once held the station's fire pole. The pole had been removed, but the hole was uncovered.

The accident happened in September. Her lawyer, Neil Greenberg, says she is lucky to be alive.

Cooper's spokesman declined to comment. The Manhattan firehouse was built in 1906. It was the former home of a unit of the Fire Patrol, a private firefighting organization backed by the insurance industry.

O'Brien is also suing the developer of the building.

Grandma adds insult to injury caused by her hurtful remark

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My daughter and I haven't spoken in more than two years because of something I said regarding her grandson, "Joey," who is my great-grandson. The last time I saw this boy, who lives in another state, he was 7 or 8.

My daughter's husband was expressing how proud he was of Joey, who is a star football player—a linebacker at 200 pounds and over 6 feet tall. I said, "Wow, the last time I saw him he was 7 or 8 and fat as a little pig." My words were not wisely chosen, but an expression I have used many times. It was just a comment.

They left the state in early spring without a call or a goodbye. On Mother's Day I received a "gushy" card, which I returned with a note saying how much I would have loved the card—if I had felt it was sincere.

I am 86 and hate what has happened, but I feel I am being punished for just "being me." Should I make the first move or just let sleeping dogs lie?

OUTSPOKEN GRANDMA IN FLORIDA

DEAR OUTSPOKEN GRANDMA: You should have apologized for your comment the minute you realized you had struck a nerve. And returning the card the way you did only added fuel to the fire. My advice is to write your daughter and son-in-law a note of apology and do it soon, because at 86, you don't have any time to waste.

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman from a family of females who are all large-busted. Sad to say, I am the exception. My husband not only looks but stares when he sees a big-breasted woman. He promised me a few years ago I could get implants. He even let me consult two plastic surgeons, and then twice prevented me with excuses from having it done.

I do not want this because of his actions but because I have always wanted a well-balanced body. I have been told by family members to go ahead and get the implants without his knowledge. I believe he would love the end result, but I'm not sure this is the right way to do it. What do you think?

NO MORE EXCUSES IN LOUISIANA

DEAR NO MORE EXCUSES: I think that if you want to have breast augmentation, you should do it. BUT NOT THE WAY YOUR FAMILY IS SUGGESTING! Have a serious talk with your husband, so you can explain how you feel about having the surgery and he can tell you exactly what his qualms are. While he may enjoy looking at large-breasted women, he married you just the way you are, and he may be worried that something could happen during the procedure that could cost him the love of his life. Hear him out.

DEAR ABBY: I am an only child who has been married for almost 30 years to a wonderful man who is also an only child. We have no children.

We are moving to another state where we don't know anyone. I am worried that one day I'll be all alone in the world with no one to turn to. (Women statistically tend to live longer than men, and my husband is seven years my senior.)

What do people do when they have no one, and how do I not let this ruin our otherwise great life now?

AFRAID TO BE ALONE

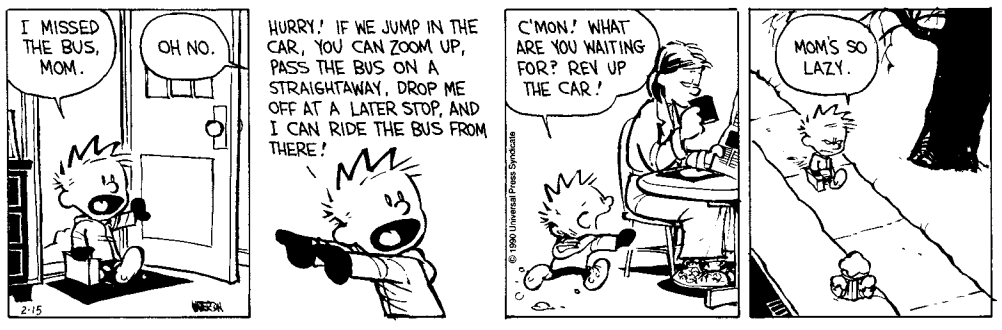
DEAR AFRAID: First of all, quit preoccupying yourself with thoughts of death and isolation. When you arrive at your destination, join a church or synagogue if you are religious. If you're not, find organizations where you and your husband can volunteer time and meet people. Join social clubs if you're moving to a sizable city. "Old age" will happen years from now, if you're lucky. And regardless of what "statistics" say, you could go before your husband—so stop worrying and enjoy the time you have together.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I MISSED THE BUS, MOM.
OH NO.
HURRY! IF WE JUMP IN THE CAR, YOU CAN ZOOM UP, PASS THE BUS ON A STRAIGHTAWAY, DROP ME OFF AT A LATER STOP, AND I CAN RIDE THE BUS FROM THERE!
C'MON! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? REV UP THE CAR!
MOM'S SO LAZY.
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
2-15

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

SORRY I'M LATE!
I LOST TRACK OF THE TIME
I WILL NOT DIGNIFY THAT COMMENT WITH A RESPONSE
"LOST TRACK OF TIME"... GET IT?
© 2010 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick
JIM DAVIS 2-15

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ARE THOSE OUR TAX FORMS?
YEAH. I'VE GOT EVERYTHING IN THIS FOLDER.
AND YOU'RE TAKING THEM TO AN ACCOUNTANT?
OH, NO. I'M USING MY FOOLPROOF SYSTEM.
THE "WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE" PLAN?
HAVE YOU BEEN READING MY DIARY?
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
2-15

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I SPILLED A CUP OF HOT COFFEE IN MY LAP, SO I WANT TO SUE THE FAST FOOD PLACE I BOUGHT IT FROM.
ON WHAT GROUNDS?
THE ONES IN MY LAP.
2-15-10
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

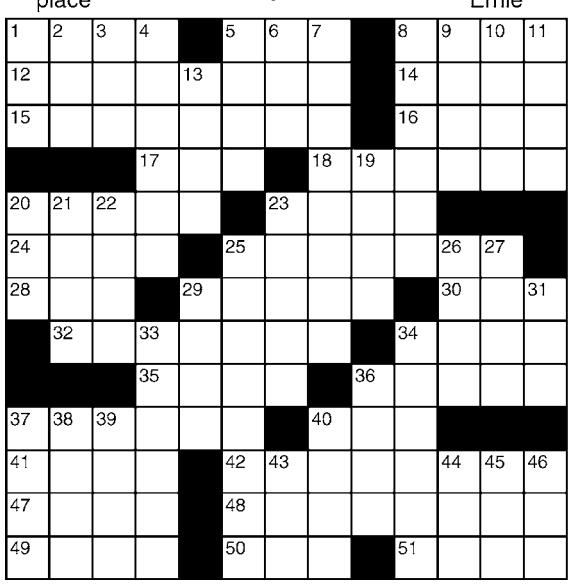
ACROSS
1 Goya subject
5 Illuminated
8 Hairless
12 Trespass
14 Malaria symptom
15 Electrical energy measurement
16 Tragic
17 Type units
18 Removed the lid
20 Computer shortcut
23 Small branch
24 Actress Judith
25 Idea
28 Wynken, Blynken and —
29 Doughnut-shaped figure
30 Reaction to fireworks
32 Lacking
34 Sweat outlet
35 Steerer's place
36 Windyday toys
37 Infants
40 Mineo of movies
41 Smell
42 High-temp nursery structure
47 Beer ingredient
48 Never a dull moment
49 Donkey's noise
50 Water barrier
51 Half the Brady kids

DOWN
1 Kitten's comment
2 Literary collection
3 Intersection (Abbr.)
4 Blood line
5 Cambodia's neighbor
6 Hosp. section
7 Discard
8 Nogoodnik
9 Not "fer"
10 Entice
11 Homeowner's document
13 Speed skater Apolo Anton —
19 Any of 12 popes
20 Hr. fraction
21 Acknowledge
22 Money of Ghana
23 Pluck idly
25 Backyard sight
26 Owl's sound
27 Rent
29 You, old-style
31 "— a real nowhere man ..."
33 "— days hath ..."
34 Airline employees
36 Madeline of "Young Frankenstein"
37 Flop on Broadway
38 Hebrew month
39 Gaucho's weapon
40 Goblet feature
43 Eggs
44 Spacecraft from far away
45 Big star
46 Golfer Ernie

Solution time: 24 mins.

C	O	N	J	■	A	B	C	S	■	P	V	C
O	R	E	O	■	S	O	R	E	■	O	O	H
M	A	C	E	■	K	N	E	E	■	P	T	A
E	L	K	S	■	F	E	E	■	J	E	E	R
■	■	■	I	D	O	■	P	R	O	■	■	■
E	L	I	X	I	R	■	S	E	E	T	H	E
T	A	R	P	S	■	■	■	S	C	O	U	R
A	C	K	A	C	K	■	S	O	O	T	H	E
■	■	■	C	O	N	■	O	W	L	■	■	■
W	E	E	K	■	I	L	L	■	L	A	M	E
O	V	A	■	A	G	U	E	■	E	X	A	M
L	I	S	■	S	H	A	M	■	G	L	U	M
F	L	Y	■	S	T	U	N	■	E	E	L	Y

Saturday's answer 2-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brandon Boyd, 34; Matt Groening, 56; Melissa Manchester, 59; Jane Seymour, 59

Happy Birthday: You'll have an interesting way of approaching people and you will achieve your personal goals in an unexpected, unique manner that may be confusing for family and friends. Greater focus on what you can do will bring about the changes you need to make within your partnerships and with regard to the people you work with and for. Your numbers are 4, 7, 11, 20, 26, 37, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't fret over something that hasn't happened. Do your best and offer what you can without hesitation. Your willingness to be a participant instead of an onlooker will separate you from the crowd. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You will impress far more people with productivity. If you can offer your services at a discount when times are tough, you will secure your position. Kindness and generosity will be repaid. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may have to do some fast-talking to avoid a scene. Don't let anyone put you in a precarious position by trying to pin something on you that is only partially your fault. Own up and move on. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Trust your own mind to make the decisions that will benefit you most. Love is in the stars and making time for an enjoyable encounter with someone special will help you feel emotionally secure. Self-improvement projects will go well. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Aggressive talks will help you stabilize your position and can mark territory for a prosperous future. A creative suggestion will intrigue the people who can turn your ideas into reality. Be honest about what you have to bring to the table. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't wait for someone else to make a decision that will affect you. Jump in and make whatever adjustments are required to ensure your own success and happiness. If you don't speak up, you have nothing to complain about. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Your focus should be on home, family and relationships. Don't let a change at work cause you concern. Take care of your own responsibilities and you will be free to give your attention to the people in your life who really count. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Avoid fights, disputes and people who meddle. Concentrate on the creative, the exciting and whatever will lead to a new adventure. There is no point wasting time over something you cannot change. A love relationship can take on a new life if you throw a few promises in the mix. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Everything you say and do will be scrutinized. Explain your every move with extreme accuracy and get approval before you do something that may be questioned. A love relationship may be jeopardized if you are too familiar with others. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let an old competitor get the better of you now. A knowledgeable view of whatever situation you face will enable you to control the outcome. Mix the old with the new for a workable solution. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Use your head when it comes to money matters. With a good budget, you can set your finances in order. Someone you work with or for may be angry if you haven't held up your end of a deal. Be ready to make amends. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A deal can be struck and a partnership started if you lay down some ground rules and are willing to put the past behind you. A show of emotions will help you gain sympathy and assistance. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, creative and unique in your approach to people and projects. You are reliable and thoughtful, affectionate and sensitive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1		7		3		9	
2								1
			8	2	1			
5		9	4		6	1		2
		6		7		4		
4		3	1		8	9		6
			5	9	4			
9								5
	5		3		2		1	

Difficulty Level ★ 2/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

1	5	8	4	2	3	6	7	9
9	3	4	7	6	1	8	5	2
7	2	6	5	9	8	4	3	1
6	8	9	3	4	7	1	2	5
2	4	5	1	8	9	7	6	3
3	1	7	2	5	6	9	4	8
4	9	1	6	3	5	2	8	7
5	7	2	8	1	4	3	9	6
8	6	3	9	7	2	5	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LIVE WITH REGIS AND KELLY **Solution: 10 letters**

L	N	W	S	M	O	M	Z	G	G	N	I	T	A	R
N	I	I	A	L	N	O	I	S	I	V	E	L	E	T
E	E	N	B	R	E	F	U	N	N	Y	K	L	A	(T)
M	N	W	C	L	D	E	Q	D	A	I	L	Y	(A)	H
A	O	E	Y	O	I	R	P	T	R	Y	N	(H)	O	E
K	H	M	R	O	L	H	O	W	S	E	(C)	B	M	M
E	P	A	G	G	R	N	P	B	E	O	S	T	O	E
O	W	I	R	N	E	K	S	A	E	E	H	S	N	X
V	O	L	I	G	D	T	R	Q	I	O	K	E	U	D
E	H	P	L	J	A	A	I	I	U	V	C	U	M	P
R	S	N	L	O	Y	T	I	C	P	A	I	G	E	U
S	P	O	O	K	T	A	C	U	L	A	R	R	N	E
C	E	R	F	E	I	G	E	L	M	A	N	E	T	K
S	N	A	F	S	M	E	C	N	E	I	D	U	A	A
S	T	I	K	S	E	K	I	L	A	K	O	O	L	W

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 2/15

Audience, Call, Chat, City, Daily, Daytime, Dress Up, E-mail, Energetic, Fans, Funny, Gelman, Grill Off, Guest, Host, Inbox, Jokes, Lincoln Square, Lookalikes, Makeovers, Moms, Monumental, New York, Philbin, Phone-In, Pop Quiz, Rating, Rellys, Ripa, Show, Skits, Sleep Week, Spin, Spooktacular, Talk, Television, Theme, Trivia, Wakeup, Wardrobe

Last Saturday's Answer: Pantaloonies

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 or 30 send $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Uclick plus $2 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR LEASE

Lower N.H. barracks and property for long term lease. As Lito house and property for long term lease. If interested please call at 287-7676 for more information.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

WHATZIT Solution: Bear up under the strain

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $25.00
Call: 233-9889 or 483-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

CAREFREE LAWN CLEANING SERVICE 285-6640

FOR SALE
2001 Toyota Sienna Van (white) good condition with 164,000 miles, automatic transmission, air condition, CD player, power windows and look. **$5,500 OBO**. **Please call 287-4614**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, -v-. DAVID A. MANGLONA and NORMA A. MANGLONA, Defendants. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 02-0382R — NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on January 21, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 345 R 379, containing an are of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 09 dated September 25, 1984, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 84-2049.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 23, 2010, at the hour of 11:30 a.m., at The Courthouse, Sinapalo Village, Rota, Northern Marina Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 5th day of February 2010:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff, vs. STEVE K. MESNGON and JUDY ANN M. MESNGON, Defendants. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0065 — NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on January 25, 2010, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Lot No. 330 R 108, containing an area of 870 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 330 R 03, dated March 13, 1992, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 92-859, dated March 16, 1992, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on 1st, March, 2010, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at Carlsmith Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, January 26, 2010.

/s/ Vincent J. Seman
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361
Attorneys for Plaintiff

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner
ELIHSA INOKE WENIO

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANSHIP OF SARA DELFINA WENIO FLORES, Minor Child, By ELIHSA INOKE WENIO Petitioner. — FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0060 — NOTICE OF HEARING

Please take notice that the above-stated matter shall come on for hearing on the 8th day of March, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth Superior Court on the petition of Elihsa Inoke Wenio for her appointment as general guardian for minor child Sara Delfina Wenio Flores (d.o.b. 03/28/2002) born on Saipan. Those wishing to be heard on this matter, please contact Danilo T. Aguilar, Esq. at the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, or appear at the Commonwealth Court at the above-stated date and time.

Dated.

/s/ Clerk of Court

www. saipantribune.com

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Palms Resort Saipan is seeking an energetic, enthusiastic and experienced individual for the following position:

Wait Staff (Part-Time)

Should be neatly groomed, organized and self-starters. Clear and effective communication skills are a must. (Japanese, Korean and Chinese speaking a plus)

- U.S. Citizens/Residents preferred.

Applications may be picked up and submitted at the Security Office, Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. No phone calls please.

Palms Resort Saipan

Ever thought of a Career in Healthcare?

Are you outgoing, bright and friendly?

You may have what it takes to join the team of Eye Care Assistants at Marianas Eye Institute!

No healthcare experience needed. We will train you!

Requirements:
- US Citizen or IR Status
- High school diploma with a GPA of 3.3 or higher
- Police Clearance
- Previous work experience
- Computer Skills
- Credit Check
- Bright and friendly
- Letter of recommendation from previous employer

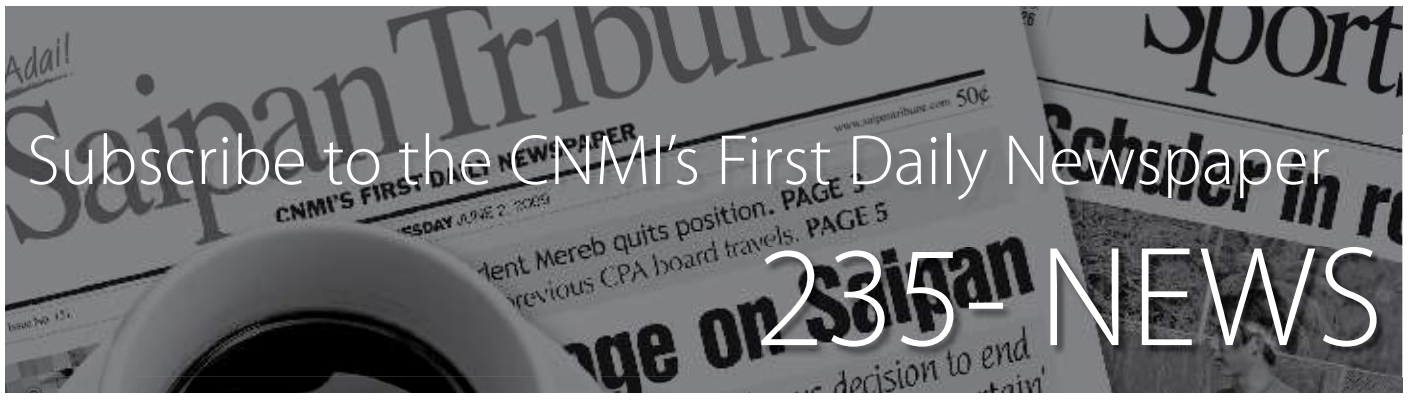
Benefits:
- Competitive salary
- Health Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Retirement Plan
- Productivity Bonuses
- Profit Sharing
- Generous Leave Benefits
- Paid Holidays

Great work environment, great benefits!

Apply in person at...

Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

Garapan, across from 13 Fisherman Monument
No Phone Calls Please



WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

STRAIN
GOY

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Find today's solution in this section

Kryptonate: Knick becomes 3-time dunk champion

DALLAS (AP)—Nate Robinson is the NBA's first three-time slam dunk champion, and that's enough for him. The 5-foot-9 New York Knicks guard says he's done with the marquee event of Saturday night's All-Star festivities.

"No, no, no, no, no. I don't think I can bear that anymore. I'm just happy with this third one," he said. "This is the last one."

Robinson barely won another title, garnering 51 percent of the fan vote to hold off Toronto rookie DeMar DeRozan in a largely forgettable dunk contest.

DeRozan advanced to the final round after getting a perfect score of 50 on his second dunk of the first round.

After bringing several Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders on the court with him, Robinson's final dunk came when he threw the ball off the backboard, grabbed it and turned midair for a two-handed backward slam.

"The best thing I brought with me, the Dallas cheerleaders of course," Robinson said. "I asked if they could help me out with the dunk. They did their job and I did mine."

While not using the cheerleaders as props—"They're way too beautiful for that," he said—Robinson celebrated his final dunk by grabbing a pair of silver and blue pompoms from one of them and waving them in the air.

Fan voting determined the final round after DeRozan advanced by getting five 10s from a judging panel that included former dunk champions Spud Webb and Dominique Wilkins. The 5-foot-7 Webb, a Dallas native, won the event the only other time it was held in his hometown in 1986.

Robinson won the dunk title as a rookie in 2006, then beat Dwight Howard to win again last year.

DeRozan's perfect score came after he caught a pass off the side of the backboard and slammed it with his right hand on the other side of the hoop.

DeRozan got a spot in the competition by winning the first-ever All-Star Slam Dunk-In, beating Los Angeles Clippers guard Eric Gordon at halftime of the rookie challenge on Friday night.

Charlotte's Gerald Wallace and Shannon Brown of the Los Angeles Lakers were eliminated after the first round.

While Robinson reigned again, Boston's Paul Pierce arrived for All-Star weekend wanting to make up for an embarrassing performance.

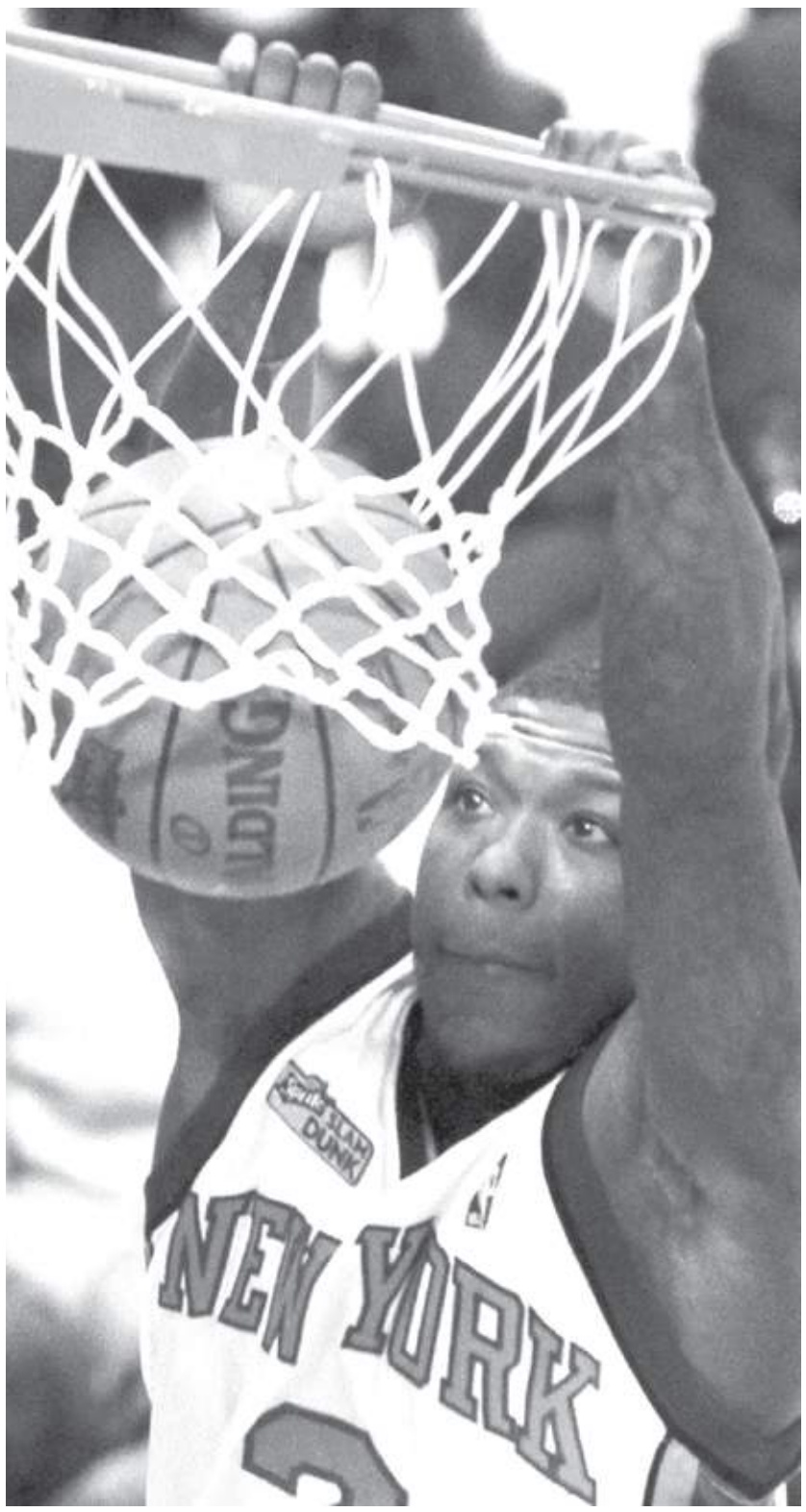
Consider it done.

Pierce won the 3-Point Shootout, proving his lackluster performance the last time he was in the competition was an aberration.

"I worked on it, I really took pride in it. In '02 I stunk it up. I wanted to come in here and put on a show," Pierce said. "I had to work on getting the technique down and knowing what side to pull the ball from, stuff like that. I knew if I got hot I could win it."

Pierce had 20 points in the final round, making all five of the 2-point money balls, to beat Golden State's Stephen Curry (17) and Denver's Chauncey Billups (14).

When Pierce last competed in the Shootout in 2002, he scored only eight points—what he called leading into this week's competition "almost a record low."



AP

New York Knicks' Nate Robinson dunks during the slam dunk contest during the NBA basketball All-Star Saturday Night on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010, in Dallas.

Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash also was a winner Saturday night, beating a trio of 20-somethings to capture another Skills Challenge title six days after he turned 36.

With a time of 29.9 seconds in the final round of the obstacle course-like skills competition, Nash beat Dallas native and 2008 champion Deron Williams of Utah, who is 11 years younger.

It's been quite a run this weekend for the Canadian, who helped light the Olympic cauldron at Friday's opening ceremonies in Vancouver, British Columbia. He also will be on the court Sunday for the All-Star game in the same area where he played from 1998-2004.

"I got my second wind," said Nash, who jokingly asked his younger opponents before the competition if he could start from the second station instead of doing the entire course.

Nash, whose other Skills Challenge title came in 2005, didn't have any practice on the course before the competition.

"I tried my best without my warmup," Nash said. "I missed the run-through because I was a little disjointed from the trip. ... I was kind of hoping for the best."

Nash completed every obstacle in the final round in one try—save for a second shot from the top of the key. Williams was perfect until needing five shots at the outlet pass, when he had already exceeded Nash's winning time.

Milwaukee rookie guard Brandon Jennings and Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook, 21, were eliminated after the first round. Westbrook replaced defending champion Derrick Rose of Chicago, who sat out with a bruised right hip.

Defending 3-point champion Daequan Cook of Miami was eliminated after the first round. His 15 points were the same as Phoenix's Channing Frye and New York's Danilo Gallinari. Curry had 18 points in the first round, while Pierce and Billups had 17.

In Saturday night's opening event, hometown favorite and former Nash teammate Dirk Nowitzki hit a shot from midcourt to cap Team Texas' victory in the Shooting Stars competition.

Texas, which also consisted of San Antonio Silver Stars player Becky Hammon and former Houston guard Kenny Smith, beat Team Los Angeles with a time of 34.3 in the finals. The Texas trio needed 13 shots to complete the final round.

Lakers All-Star Pau Gasol, former NBA player Brent Barry and Marie Ferdinand-Harris of the Los Angeles Sparks came in second, finishing in 55.2 seconds.

Saturday night's events were at the American Airlines Center, but Sunday's All-Star game will be at Cowboys Stadium, where more than 90,000 people are expected to attend.

"The whole weekend is special because Dallas can showcase what we have. The new stadium is going to be amazing," Nowitzki said. "We'll all be part of history in the biggest crowd and this is a good way to start it off."

Mavs, Wizards complete deal with Howard, Butler

DALLAS (AP)—The Dallas Mavericks acquired Caron Butler and Brendan Haywood from Washington on Saturday, a seven-player deal that strengthens them for a playoff run and signals the breakup of a disappointing Wizards team.

The Mavericks dealt forwards Josh Howard and Drew Gooden, and two other players to the Wizards. Dallas also got guard DeShawn Stevenson and cash considerations.

Dallas president of basketball operations Donnie Nelson called trading Howard, who had spent his entire career in Dallas, an "excruciating decision." But couldn't pass up the chance to bring Butler, a two-time All-Star, to a team he acknowledges has been sputtering.

"Caron is kind of probably more of a conventional fit and a better fit of us," Nelson said. "It's never easy. You've got to give quality to get quality. We just got the pieces that are better fits for us at this particular time."

Howard was in his seventh season with Dallas, a span filled with promise and disappointment since being the 29th overall pick in 2003. Gooden, signed by Dallas last summer, will be going to his eighth team in eight NBA seasons.

It is a significant move for the Southwest Division-leading Mavericks (32-20), a deal announced just before the start of the Saturday night All-Star activities in their home arena.

Dallas lost five of its seven games before the All-Star break, and plays four games in five nights starting Tuesday in Oklahoma City.

"It makes us significantly better," Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said.

The Wizards (17-33) expected to contend for a playoff spot and instead have endured a miserable season that made it likely they would be active in slashing payroll before Thursday's trade deadline.

Washington had already lost Gilbert Arenas and Javaris Crittenton when both were suspended last month by the NBA for the rest of the season. Both admitted to bringing a gun into the locker room after a dispute stemming from a card game on a team flight.

"We're all disappointed in how our season has gone. We need some freshness and we're getting proven players who will help us, and it gives us some flexibility down the road," Wizards president Ernie Grunfeld said. "We want to remain competitive and maybe this group can provide a spark. The group had gotten stale, and we needed a change."

As for the possibilities of more deals before the deadline, Grunfeld said "there's still a lot of conversations going on."

James Singleton and Quinton Ross also went to the Wizards to round out the deal.

Butler averaged 16.9 points and 6.7 rebounds in 47 games this season. Haywood was the Wizards' top rebounder with 10.3 per game.

Butler thanked the Wizards and their fans in a statement and said he would, "continue to play with the same desire and intensity that I have had throughout my entire NBA career."

Howard played 431 games for the Mavericks, and was the team's second-longest tenured player behind All-Star forward Dirk Nowitzki.

Howard was limited the first couple of months while recovering from offseason surgery on his left ankle and started only nine times, averaging 12.5 points in 31 games. He also had surgery on his left wrist last summer.

"Different teams go through different situations. The Mavs went through it in the '90s, the Wizards are going through some issues right now," Cuban said. "Sometimes giving guys a fresh home I think re-energizes them, and will work the other way too. I think Josh will find himself re-energized with the Wizards."

Howard was an All-Star in 2007, when he averaged 18.9 points in 70 games. He had his best season a year later, when he averaged 19.9 points.

In an interview on the ESPN radio station in Dallas on Saturday before the trade, Howard said he'd like to stay in Dallas but had been told by his agent that a trade was possible.

The same season of his All-Star appearance, Howard said in a radio interview during a first-round playoff series against New Orleans that he occasionally smoked marijuana. Later that same series, he angered then-coach Avery Johnson by throwing himself a birthday party after a Game 4 loss to the Hornets.

Then last summer, a video posted on YouTube showed Howard disrespecting the national anthem while attending a charity flag football game. On the first day of Mavericks training camp, Howard made a statement before taking questions from reporters and apologized.

Cuban said physicals were waived, meaning every player should be in their new uniforms right after the All-Star break. Washington is home Wednesday night against Minnesota.

"We haven't been playing well, that's for sure. Sometimes people might think that moving someone or making a trade can help," Jason Kidd, another Mavs All-Star, said Saturday before the trade was announced. "We have a big week coming out of the All-Star break ... 30 games left, it's a sprint now, not a marathon. I think we're going to be ready for that."

Make it six: Ohno ties Blair for most US medals

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Apolo Anton Ohno held up all five of the gold-tipped fingers on his left hand. Tucking the American flag his arm, he put up another finger on his right hand.

Make it six.

The American who made the soul patch fashionable—even the women were wearin' em—pulled out a silver medal in the 1,500-meter final Saturday night when two South Koreans took each other out on the final turn, allowing Ohno to tie Bonnie Blair for most medals won by a U.S. Winter Olympian.

Korea still got the gold, which went to Lee Jung-su, out front and out of the trouble that gobbled up his teammates. But Ohno had no complaints about being the runner-up, especially when he swerved into the final turn in fourth, all hope of a medal appearing lost.

"Pretty intense," Ohno said. "This is what this sport is all about."

In short track, the most freakish of Olympic sports, it's never over until everyone's across the line—and, sometimes, even then it's not over.

Disqualifications are common, and Ohno thought he might benefit from one after jostling with Sung Si-bak with a few laps to go, even grabbing at the South Korean to keep from falling.

Turns out, Ohno didn't have to rely on the judges.

AP

USA's Apolo Anton Ohno, right, leads the pack, closely followed by South Korea Jung-Su Lee, left, during the men's 1500m finals short track skating competition, at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010.

The Koreans took themselves out, costing themselves a sweep of the medal podium. Instead, the Americans wound up with both spots behind Lee—Ohno and 19-year-old bronze medalist J.R. Celski, skating in his first meet since a bloody, gruesome crash at the U.S. trials in September.

It's the first time the Americans have put two skaters on the podium in an Olympic short track event.

"We thought Korea would get not only gold, but silver and bronze," Lee said through a translator. "Short track is a game that is very unpredictable. Even though you've had a lot of practice, you don't know what's going to happen."

Ohno, who now has two medals of each color, moved past Eric Heiden as the most decorated American male at the Winter Games and also claimed the mark for most short track medals since the wild-and-wooly sport joined the Olympic program in 1992.

Heiden, now the team doctor for U.S. Speedskating, told The Associated Press he was "glued to the television" while working in the training room at the Olympic Village.

"The thing that really sets him apart is he's been doing this for a number of years," Heiden said when reached on his cell phone. "We've learned to appreciate what dedication and hard work he's had to put in. He's a product of both those things."

Ohno has three more events at the Vancouver Games to pass Blair—two individual races, plus the relay.

"I've come prepared, more than I've ever prepared for anything in my life," Ohno said. "I'm in a very, very good place. Obviously, I know I have six medals now and I have no regrets about this entire Olympic Games experience. This is going to stay with me for the rest of my life."

Ohno eliminated Canadian favorite Charles Hamelin in the semifinals with a daring inside move, drawing groans from many of the red-clad fans in the packed house at Pacific Coliseum. But there was still plenty of red-white-and-blue cheering for the 27-year-old American, who is practically a hometown favorite at these games.

Vancouver is just a three-hour drive north of suburban Seattle, where Ohno was born and raised by a single father, getting his start in skating with wheels under his feet rather than blades.

"I just feel so blessed to be here, healthy, competing," he said. "It feels like home soil to me. We just have so much support in the crowd."

Yuki Ohno cheered on his son and afterward took plenty of pictures with his cell phone.

"We didn't come here to break the record. It's kind of a bonus to him," his dad said. "His confidence level is just way up there."

When young Apolo watched short track make its Olympic debut 18 years ago, he decided that's what he wanted to do. Clearly, the ice suited him, and he quickly learned to deal with the capriciousness of his newfound sport.

Sometimes, it works out just fine.

Ohno won his first medal at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games when a crash on the final turn took out every skater but one, Australia's Steven Bradbury, who coasted across the line as perhaps the flukiest gold medalist ever. Ohno, his leg gashed by a skate blade, crawled across the line for a silver.

Talk about symmetry.

Ohno's sixth medal was claimed under similar circumstances, though this time he didn't have to spill any blood. The powerful South Koreans put three skaters in the final, and it looked as though they would sweep the medals when all of them shot ahead of Ohno on the final lap.

"Myself and everybody here thought it was finished and done with," Heiden said. "Typical short track. It's never over 'til it's over. It's sort of deja vu with what happened in Salt Lake City with Bradbury."

Ohno nearly crashed when he got tangled up with Sung, actually sticking out his right arm to fend off the South Korean—and perhaps keep himself up as he stumbled. Once Ohno regained his balance, it looked as though the Koreans were gone.

Then came the final turn.

Lee was out front and avoided trouble. But Lee Ho-suk cut in on Sung while trying to set up a last-second pass on Lee, and they both slid into the padded barrier, their medal hopes dashed in a heap. Ohno skated right on by, as did Celski.

"I skated a very aggressive race. I was battling with some of the best skaters in the world. It was a crazy race," Ohno said. "I saw Ho-suk set up a pretty wild pass. It did not work out well for him."

It worked out just fine for Ohno and Celski, who didn't even know if he'd be able to compete at the Olympics after ripping open his left thigh with his own skate blade in that crash at the U.S. trials. He underwent surgery and resumed training as soon as possible, but still had to overcome plenty of lingering fears and doubts.

Johnson, Goydos tied for the lead

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Dustin Johnson and Paul Goydos could not be any more different, which is why it was so odd to see them atop the leaderboard Saturday at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am with identical scores.

On their birth certificates, Goydos is 20 years older. On the tee, Johnson is 48 yards longer.

Johnson is tall and athletic. Goydos is ... not.

They played with the gifts they have, and they used them brilliantly on a gorgeous afternoon that gives Pebble Beach such iconic status as America's most famous seaside course.

Johnson overpowered Spyglass Hill for an 8-under 64 that included two eagles. Goydos poked his way along the splendid coastline of Pebble Beach and birdied two of the last three holes for an 8-under 64.

Nothing separated them on the scoreboard, which is all that matters. They were at 18-under 196, four shots clear of anyone else heading into the final round.

"His game is a little different from mine," said Johnson, who will try to become only the fifth back-to-back winner of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, and the first in 20 years. "And he finds a way to get it done."

Johnson began his round at Spyglass Hill with a 343-yard drive, leaving him a hybrid for his second shot on the 595-yard hole. It rolled past the pin, and he made a 20-foot eagle from the fringe.

Goydos ripped a 268-yard drive on the par-5 second hole at Pebble Beach, leaving him a 3-wood into the 513-yard hole that he hit to 8 feet for an eagle.

Two questions to each player spoke volumes about how different they play.

Goydos was asked if he will simply ignore how far Johnson hits the ball off the tee.

"No, I fully panic," Goydos said. "You know, it is what it is. I don't know if 'ignore' is the right word, but you appreciate. I'm going to appreciate his play, but you go out and play your game, too. I have do things differently than he does, and he's got to do things differently than I do."

Johnson was asked which course plays long for him. His answer came through a fixed smile.

"Not too many of 'em," he said.

Even so, the 25-year-old Johnson, emerging as one of the top young American stars, is not about to take Goydos lightly.

"It doesn't matter how far you hit it or where you hit it," Johnson said. "You've just got to find a way to get it in the hole. Whoever can get it in the hole tomorrow is going to come out with the victory."

J.B. Holmes and Bryce Molder each had a 68 at Spyglass Hill, while Matt Jones had a 66 on the Shore Course at Monterey Peninsula. They were tied for third at 14-under 200.

David Duval had a 67 and was tied for seventh. Phil Mickelson had a 69 at Pebble Beach and was eight shots out of the lead.

The biggest star Saturday was the weather, some of the most spectacular conditions this tournament has seen in years. Along the coast of Pebble Beach, huge swells crashed against the rocks and the sea wall.

"The ocean was angry today," Goydos said. "What they've got here is God's gift to golf."

Goydos' game isn't always so pretty, although there is no disputing how he reached the top of the leaderboard. On the par-5 sixth hole, his second shot from the rough barely cleared the hill and nearly went into a bunker. With an awkward stance, he did well to get it on the green. And after a two-putt par, he said to his partners, "That never looked like it was going to be better than a 5."

One hole later, with a stiff ocean breeze at his back and a downhill shot to a green 97 yards away, he hit sand wedge to 2 feet.

Over at Spyglass, traditionally the toughest course on the rotation, Johnson was whaling away. The defending champion had two eagles and played the par 5s in 6 under, and he had a chance at the course record of 62 until charging his birdie putt past the hole and missing the comeback putt for par.

"Length is not an issue," Johnson said. "Doesn't play very long for me. If I'm hitting it in the fairway, then it definitely plays right into my hands, because I can get to all the par 5s there."

On this glorious day with a stiff breeze, Spyglass was the place to be. Pebble Beach and the Shore Course at Monterey Peninsula, a par 70 and newcomer to the rotation, are exposed along the ocean. Except for five holes, Spyglass is sheltered by pines and cypress.

Johnson and Goydos couldn't recall playing with each other before, and even if they did, it's not like they would have been together given the difference in their tee shots.

Goydos paused when asked if he considered Johnson to be a better player.

"He's won twice in two years. I've won twice in 18," Goydos said. "'Better' is an interesting word. He's definitely off to a much better start than I had. There's a slight curve because I've been out so long. So if he'd won 10 times after 18 years, the answer is 'yes.' But right now? I don't know."

Then he paused once more before adding, "He's definitely showing signs of it."

OL'ACES

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with three strikeouts.

Ol'Aces led the parade of teams during the opening ceremony of the league that drew guests from both the sports and government sectors.

Joining Ol'Aces in the opening rites were 12 other teams in the Majors division, eight in the Juniors, six in the Seniors, and four in the Big League.

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos threw the ceremonial pitch with Vince Pangelinan batting and Rep. Ramon Tebuteb catching.

SLLB president Tony Rogolifoi and CNMI District Administrator James Ada delivered brief remarks, while the rest of the attendees at the opening rites observed a few moments of silence in memory of former statistician Roque Celis, who passed away in December last year.

Braves 14, Red Sox 3

In the second game, the Braves used a seven-run top of the third as cushion to beat the Red Sox after only four innings, 14-3.

The Braves were ahead by only two, 3-1, after two innings when pitcher J.J. Lifoifoi hit a two-run single and Ian Norita had a two-run sacrifice fly to give their team more distance. Lifoifoi was still on target in his next trip at bat, blasting a three-run triple to give the Braves a winning start in the Major league.

Lions 15, Hustlers 12

Starting pitcher Giovanni Taitifong went 3-for-4 at bat and scored two runs and four RBIs to lead the Kagman Lions to a 15-12 win over the Hustlers.

He had a two-run triple in the first inning for the Lions 3-0 lead and although the Hustlers tallied six runs in the second, the eventual winners were still in the driver's seat, 7-6, and hung in there.

Third pitcher J.P. Taitano finished the job with two strikeouts at the top of the sixth innings.

SENIORS Ol'Aces 16, Fielders 6

Ol'Aces played strong in the last three innings to take a 16-6 win against the Fielders in the Seniors division game.

Trailing after four complete innings, 4-6, Ol'Aces recovered behind shortstop Lamarc Iguel and Harry Nakamura. Iguel went 3-for-3 in his last three trips at bat and made four RBIs. Nakamura went 2-for-2 in the last three innings after going 0-for-2 and added two RBIs.

Ol'Aces' defense allowed Fielders to score only in the first two innings.

JUNIORS Patriots 20, Ol'Aces 14

Defending champion Docomo Patriots had a rousing start in the Junior division, downing Ol'Aces, 20-14.

Jul Jean Ngeskebei went 3-for-4 at the plate, tallied three runs, and recorded five RBIs. Ngeskebei's three-run triple at the top of the third inning turned a 6-5 lead to an 11-5 advantage and he later hit a two-run single in the sixth inning.

Starting pitcher Chris Mizer went perfect at the plate, going 3-for-3 and scored three runs and two RBIs.

RECORD

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Banquet at the Seaside Hall of the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Wonenberg earned the nod of NMASA members for the fifth time after leading the CNMI to the overall title in the 2009 Micronesian Athletics Championships/ Oceania Regional Championships in Australia.

The 17-year-old athlete won in the 100m and 400m hurdles, triple jump, women's 4x100m and 4x400 relay races, and long jump. Wonenberg almost collected half of the total gold medal output of the CNMI, which earned 14 gold medals to dethrone perennial champion Guam.

Being multi-gold medalist is a quite rare achievement for the then shy girl, who blossomed to become one of the Commonwealth's well-rounded track stars.

Mothers know best

Wonenberg notched her first NMASA Student Athlete of the Year Award plum on her very first year of involvement with athletics.

"My mom, Maggie, encouraged me to try it out, as she saw in me the skills to run fast. I ran along with my brother at the track, but it was I who decided to stay and keep on training," said Wonenberg, who first played tennis, but quit after only a few months.

In that year, Wonenberg joined Hopwood Junior High School's track team that competed in the All Schools Meet and won all her events. She also made several junior records in other local events.

"My mom always encouraged us to get involve in sports so I think without her support and confidence in me, I will not be where I am right now. There will be no gold medals for me and no off-island tournament experience," the younger Wonenberg added.

Out of her comfort zone

Just like any athlete starting to get her feel of the competition, Wonenberg struggled first before reaching her peak.

"I used to be very shy so the first day of practice was a little uncomfortable, but after a while I began to open up to the team. I know that to grow we must go outside our comfort zones. I was very nervous on the day of my first tournament. I didn't have much confidence, but I did pretty good. Athletics has helped me gain confidence and overcome my shyness," the Marianas High School senior said.

After dominating local events, the time came for Wonenberg to go further and represent the CNMI to the 2007 IAAF World Youth Championships in Athletics in Ostrava, Czech Republic and there it seemed as if she's starting all over again.

"When I went to Czech, I was way out of my comfort zone, as I had to race in a very cold weather. However, I have to do what I have to do or waste the opportunity that comes only once," Wonenberg said.

The CNMI sprinter went on to set a new personal best time (27.74) in the qualifying heat in the 200m race in Ostrava.

Precious moments

In five successful years in athletics, Wonenberg has a long list of great moments in the sport.

"I have many memorable moments from track: the off-island trips, having the honor of representing the CNMI in tournaments in Australia, Samoa, Fiji, and Czech Republic. The clinics with track teams from Japan and Guam and coaches from Australia. The team's get togethers, intense training days, and the days when the team really feels like one family. Also include watching the younger kids run and encouraging them, and knowing that they see you as somewhat of a mentor," Wonenberg said.

In competitions, Wonenberg counted his silver medal win in the 200m race in the 2006 Micronesian Games on Saipan as moral boosting.

"I came from behind and managed to get a silver, second to the fastest woman in Micronesia at the time, Ngerak Florencio of Palau," she said.

Grateful

When she receives her fifth trophy for the same category, Wonenberg will have a lot of people to thank.

"Competition keeps getting tougher and tougher and I am surprised to have won it for the fifth time. Again, this one is for my mom and dad. If it were not for them, I wouldn't be getting this award. They supported and guided me through everything. I love them so much and I am eternally grateful," the MHS student said.

"I wanted to make my parents proud, and seeing that it made them happy when I brought home some hardware motivated me to train harder. Thank you too to NMA coaches and officials, who are like my second parents, and my supportive teammates," Wonenberg said.

Her fifth award will be an advanced graduation gift for Wonenberg, who will finish high school this June. She is planning to go to the mainland to continue her study and hopefully join a track team. She also aims to return to Saipan after completing her studies and share her talents/ knowledge to aspiring athletes.

"Track has given me so much and I want to give back to NMA. They've done so much for me and I also want to help in the development of young athletes here in the CNMI because I know that our athletes have so much potential," she said.

MBI

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finished in double figures, adding 14 and 11 markers, respectively. Macoto tallied five of his total points in the fourth quarter, providing Fiesta the needed baskets against the rallying AON. Jimmy Salazar chipped in six, four of them coming in the final canto.

Bon Tamayo debuted with 34 points for AON, but he and Marlon De Dios were the only two players from the NJ Pro Plus-backed squad to score more than four points in the crucial fourth period.

After trailing by eight at the break, 40-48, AON moved within a deuce several times in the third period, but Esdrelon was there to keep Fiesta float, ending that canto with a 76-69 lead. Esdrelon held his own against the hot-shooting Tamayo in the third, as the former scored four more markers over the latter's 11.

Tamayo outscored Esdrelon in the fourth, 14-10, but the latter had his teammates to turn to to preserve the lead and the win.

In the second game, MBI recovered from a slow start en route to the 10-point win.

R.J. Nonato made up for his disappointing first game of the season, drilling 28 points against Hard Rock. Nonato was scoreless in MBI's 85-78 win over Shirley's during the league's opening game.

Nonato started hot, nailing seven points in the first period, but Hard Rock took the lead, 20-17. Nonato added seven more points, while Pando Muleta chipped in six in the second period, as MBI grabbed the driver's seat at the break, 42-36.

Nonato was not done yet, as he began the second half with a 10-point production in the third canto to keep MBI in the lead, 62-54. In the fourth quarter, Nonato slowed down, but George Barbo and John Penalosa stepped up, scoring nine and five markers, respectively, to foil Hard Rock's bid for an upset.

First Game

Fiesta 97 – Esdrelon 48, Carino 14, Macoto 11, de la Torre 7, Ong 7, Salazar 6, Galag 4.

AON/Pro Plus 93 – Tamayo 34, De Dios 12, De Guzman 11, Factor 10, Catalla 9, Abuan 6, Pantola 6, Capuyon 5.

Scoring by quarters: 21-19, 48-40, 76-69, 97-73.

Second Game

MBI 82 – Nonato 28, Barbo 13, David 11, Muleta 10, Penalosa 8, Trajano 6, Achas 6.

Hard Rock 72 – Tengco 20, Paraiso 20, O. Tiamzon 12, Salamat 7, Nunac 3, Perez 2, Sales 2, Lagrio 2, Dionisio 2, Alcantara 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-20, 42-36, 62-54, 82-72.

KOREANS

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leashing killer kicks to neutralize their separate foes.

The crowd-pleaser Chang, who showed his fancy moves out of the eight sides, dancing to a fast music used during the fighter's introduction, won by TKO against Fasi "The Quikdraw" Jesse.

Chang capitalized on his height and reach advantage to beat Jesse. The Korean started the fight with a few jobs, but it was his powerful and quick kick to the body and legs that promoted Jesse to throw the towel before the start of the second round.

At the end of the Chang-dominated first round, Jesse's left face was a bit swollen after taking so much punishment from the Korean fighter. The Saipan bet went to his corner and the ring doctor checked the damage. After a few minutes, Jesse and his cornermen decided to pull the plug on the Trench Tech fighter and hand Chang the TKO victory by verbal submission.

When interviewed after his win, Chang said Saipan fans have not seen his best form and he bowed to return and show more of the stuff he is made off.

Inspired by Chang's triumph, Hyun Kyu used the same technique the former employed on Jesse to score a similar TKO win over Slade "The Rage" Adelbai.

Referee Tony D' Angelo stopped the fight in the 3:10 mark of the first round after Hyun Kyu connected on a couple of kicks and punches and finished it off with a knee on Adelbai's face. When D'Angelo called the fight off, Adelbai was still trying to hold on to his wobbling knees and keep his conciousness. Cornermen Jason Tarkong and Joe Ocampo had to assists Adelbai and let him stay in the octagon cage for a few minutes before stepping out of the eight sides.

Hyun Kyu managed to win despite getting a one-point penalty off an illegal punch to Adelbai's head early in the first round. The Korean let a roar before the start of the bout, sending a strong signal that he was out to get the head of the hometown bet.

The first fight in the triple-treat main event went the distance with Chris "No Luv" Laayug winning by unanimous decision against Gu.

Up against a taller and beefer foe, Laayug brought Gu on the ground most of the time, hitting the Korean with several body punches and a couple of kicks and neutralizing his opponent's punching hand.

At the end of the three-round bout, all three judges agreed Laayug was in control of the match and scored the bout, 30-27, in favor of the Trench Tech warrior.

Gu failed to make it 3-0 for Korea, as he lost power and rhythm against the stocky Laayug. Gu had to drop about 20 pounds to make the agreed weight limit at 145-lbs and he could not get his kick and hit game going, as Laayug continued to bring him to the ground.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

AT&T PEBBLE BEACH NATIONAL PRO-AM SCORES

PEBBLE BEACH, California (AP) – Scores Saturday from the $6.2 million Pebble Beach National Pro-Am (played on three courses golfers listed in par order): p-Pebble Beach Golf Links, 6,816 yards, Par 72; m-Monterey Peninsula CC, 6,838 yards, Par 70; s-Spyglass Hill GC, 6,953 yards, Par 72.

THIRD ROUND

Dustin Johnson	64p-68m-64s–196
Paul Goydos	67m-65s-64p–196
Bryce Molder	67p-65m-68s–200
J.B. Holmes	65p-67m-68s–200
Matt Jones	67s-67p-66m–200
Alex Cejka	65m-67s-69p–201
David Duval	67s-68p-67m–202
J.P. Hayes	68s-71p-63m–202
Steve Marino	68m-67s-67p–202
Tom Pernice, Jr.	67m-69s-67p–203
D.J. Trahan	67p-67m-69s–203
K.J. Choi	65p-70m-68s–203
Phil Mickelson	68m-67s-69p–204
Greg Owen	71s-67p-66m–204
Nick O'Hern	69s-72p-64m–205
Alex Prugh	68s-68p-69m–205
Blake Adams	65m-74s-66p–205
Padraig Harrington	69s-67p-69m–205
Josh Teater	70p-67m-68s–205
Rod Pampling	69m-70s-67p–206
John Senden	67s-71p-68m–206
Luke Donald	70p-65m-71s–206
Sergio Garcia	68m-71s-67p–206
Tim Clark	70s-68p-68m–206
Tom Gillis	69s-68p-69m–206
Jeff Maggert	65m-75s-66p–206
Vijay Singh	65m-71s-70p–206
Vaughn Taylor	69s-69p-68m–206
Brandt Snedeker	72s-68p-66m–206
Jim Furyk	68p-69m-69s–206
Spencer Levin	68m-69s-69p–206
Steve Elkington	68p-67m-71s–206
Kevin Streelman	65m-70s-72p–207
Michael Letzig	67m-74s-66p–207
Nick Watney	71p-66m-70s–207
Charley Hoffman	64m-75s-68p–207
Garrett Willis	68p-68m-71s–207
Scott McCarron	70p-66m-71s–207
Greg Chalmers	76s-66p-65m–207
Jeff Quinney	70s-71p-67m–208
Adam Scott	73s-71p-64m–208
Robert Garrigus	72s-70p-66m–208
Brian Gay	66m-73s-69p–208
Cameron Percy	69s-70p-69m–208
Charlie Wi	68p-74m-66s–208
Brett Quigley	69s-69p-71m–209
Hunter Mahan	70m-73s-66p–209
Sean O'Hair	70s-70p-69m–209
Jason Gore	69m-66s-74p–209
Rickie Fowler	67m-71s-71p–209
Jay Williamson	70s-70p-69m–209
Bob Estes	69p-68m-72s–209
Heath Slocum	71m-67s-71p–209
Webb Simpson	67m-68s-74p–209
Chris Wilson	72s-67p-70m–209
Ted Purdy	70p-69m-71s–210
Kevin Na	71p-65m-74s–210
Kris Blanks	72s-72p-66m–210
Martin Flores	69p-70m-71s–210
Chez Reavie	75p-65m-70s–210
Roger Tambellini	73s-69p-68m–210
Jason Day	71p-67m-72s–210
Pat Perez	68m-71s-71p–210
Mike Weir	67p-70m-73s–210
Will MacKenzie	70p-67m-73s–210
Jonathan Byrd	70m-70s-70p–210
Matt Every	73p-69m-68s–210
John Mallinger	67m-72s-71p–210
Kevin Johnson	70p-70m-70s–210

Made cut will not play in final round

Mark Wilson	71p-68m-72s–211
Bo Van Pelt	65m-71s-75p–211
Parker McLachlin	68s-75p-68m–211
Johnson Wagner	75p-70m-66s–211
Sam Saunders	72s-70p-69m–211
Chris Couch	68p-71m-72s–211
Chris Baryla	68m-73s-70p–211
Ryan Palmer	71m-70s-70p–211
Steve Lowery	73p-64m-74s–211
Justin Bolli	70m-71s-70p–211

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S CAGING STANDINGS

Fiesta Resort	2	0
MBI	2	0
TBK	2	0
Advance	1	0
Aqua Resort	1	0
Shirley's	0	1
Pepsi	0	1
Cell Pro	0	1
Mobil	0	1
Hard Rock	0	1
McGraw-Hill	0	1
AON/NJ Plus	0	1
Bank of Guam	0	1
Pacific Islands Club	0	0
Docomo/SGH	0	0

The Week in Sports

Hail to the champs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Last week was a crowning one for cage teams Noni Saipan and Ebisuya and six mountain bikers.

Noni Saipan swept Saipan Fresh in a best-of-three title series in the open division of the PILCOWA caging, while Ebisuya outlasted University of Loyola, 2-1, in their separate finals showdown in the masters division.

Noni Saipan won Games 1 and 2, 96-87, and 108-103, to notch its third basketball championship. Noni players topped the Navy Hill and UFO leagues, too. Ebisuya, which prevailed in Games 1 and 3, 99-83, 78-74, claimed its second masters title after also ruling the UFO caging.

Ebisuya and Noni Saipan players lorded it over in the individual awards with the former's Edwin Santos and the latter's Kae Bernardo winning the Finals MVP plums in their respective division. Wowie Abuel, also of Noni, took the regular season MVP award, while Loyola's Jun Tabora claimed the same trophy in the masters division.

No trophies were given to the top finishers in the inaugural Northern Passage, but they received medals and other perks for topping the mountain bike trail race.

In the men's full course, Butch Sublemente bested 20 other competitors, while Kimiko Hasegawa prevailed in the women's division. Bob Ferrer took the men's championship in the short course, while Maricel Mahilum prevailed in the distaff side. In the rookie course, the men's and women's champions were Shogo Ando and Kathy Pagapular.

CNMI junior tennis player Ji Hoon Heo took more than the worth of any medals or trophies, as he gained ranking points to climb up to the ITF Junior world rankings.

From No. 752 after his second tournament in New Zealand, Heo is now ranked No. 635, upping his ranking points to 45, following a first-round win in the 2010 Tennis Central 18 & U ITF Summer Championships at the Renouf Tennis Centre in Wellington.

Heo also earned ranking points in his first two tournaments in New Zealand—the 2010 Sunsmart 18 and Under Canterbury Championships and 2010 Auckland 18 & Under ITF Summer Championships.

Still in tennis, the first week of the Wise Woman Village 2010 Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament opened with a record field. It drew 54 pairs in the mixed-up doubles, four more from last year's total.

The 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League also kicked off last week with a record of 15 teams, more than doubling the six teams the caging drew in its inaugural season.

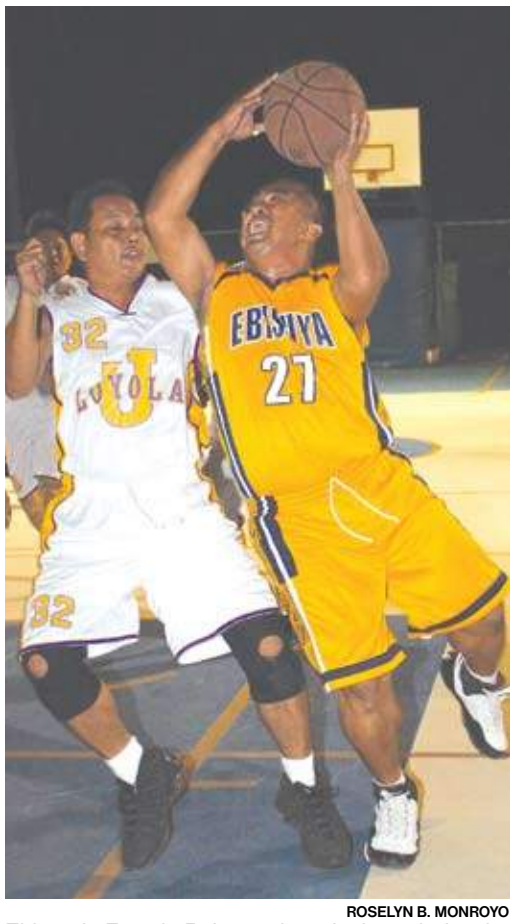
ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Noni Saipan players pose with team owners Nenita Ta and Ta Bun Kuy during the trophies presentation for the PILCOWA caging.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Top 3 finishers in the full course of the Northern Passage, Butch Sublemente, Tyce Mister, and Kieran Daly, pose with race organizer Brad Ruszala, left, and MVA's Bruce Batemen during the awards ceremony at the Palms Resort Saipan.

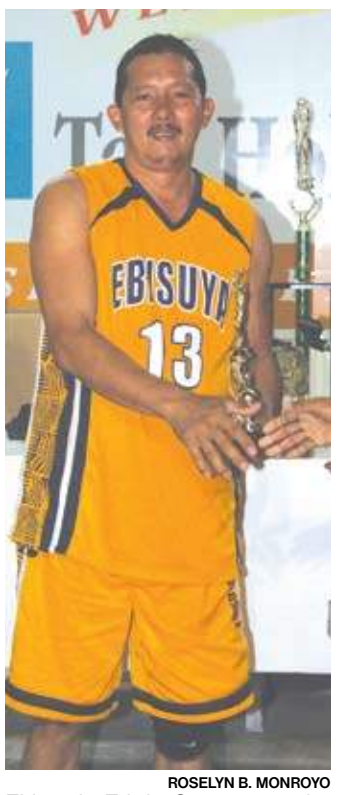
ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, center, poses with Hard Rock Café's muses.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ji Hoon Heo, seen here serving in a local tournament, moved up to the Junior ITF world rankings.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Gary Ramsey reaches for the ball during his and Negahr Rastguiy's game against Roy Pangelinan and Moris Villanueva in the mixed-up doubles division of the 2010 Coconut Classic Tournament at the AMP tennis courts.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ebisuya's Francis Rebuyon barrels through the defense of University of Loyola's Elmer Pineda during Game 3 of their title series in the masters division of the PILCOWA caging.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ebisuya's Edwin Santos won the Finals MVP in the masters division.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMASA president Michael White delivers the brief remarks during the opening of the Shirley's caging at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Kryptonate: Knick becomes 3-time dunk champion
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Ol'Aces win early rematch vs Dragons

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Ol'Aces capitalized on an erratic Dragons to prevail in their early rematch, 8-4, in the Majors division of the 2010 Saipan Little League Baseball, which kicked off yesterday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield

Ol'Aces, who edged the Dragons in last season's finals, 6-5, scored six of their total runs on the former's miscues and one off a walk.

The Dragon were off to a good start at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield when pitcher Nathan Camacho struck out Ol'Aces' first three batters at the top of the first inning and made two more strikeouts in the second inning. On offense, the Dragons tallied two of their three runs off Ol'Aces errors to take a 3-0 lead.

However, fortunes switched in the third inning when it was the Dragons' turn to commit turnovers, allowing Ol'Aces to score four runs and grab the lead, 4-3.

The defending champions never looked back, as starting pitcher Jesse Brel recorded five strikeouts before Mike Muna relieved him at the bottom of the fifth inning. Muna went on to finish the game

See OL'ACES on Page 26

Ol'Aces' Jesse Brel delivers a pitch during their game against Dragons in the Majors division of the SLLB, which opened its 2010 season yesterday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Record feat for Wonenberg

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fourth of a five-part series

(Editor's Note: On Tuesday, Feb. 16, NMASA will be holdings its 2009 Sports Banquet. To mark the occasion, Saipan Tribune will be publishing a series of articles that will pay tribute to the winners of the annual awards night.)

Tomorrow, Jacque Wonenberg will formally put her name in CNMI sports history books, as she claims her fifth straight NMASA Female Student Athlete of the Year—the most for any student-athlete in the Commonwealth—at the 2009 NMASA Sports

See RECORD on Page 26

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jacque Wonenberg, seen here competing in the long jump event in the 2009 Oceania Championships on Saipan, will be receiving her fifth NMASA Female Athlete of the Year Award tomorrow.

MBI, Fiesta start win streak

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

So far so good for defending champion Micronesian Brokers, Inc. and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, which improved to a 2-0 record after downing separate foes in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League on Friday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

MBI gave the debuting Hard Rock Café a rude welcome in the defending champion's 82-72 victory in the second game, while Fiesta outclassed AON/NJ Pro Plus in the first match, 97-93.

Elmer Esdrelon exploded for an early season-high 48 points, canning successive baskets in the second half to foil AON/NJ Pro Plus' repeated comeback bids. He had 15 and 10 markers in the third and fourth canto, respectively, and knocked down two triples each in the last two quarters. He drilled a total of six treys and had a decent shooting percentage from the foul line, hitting 10-for-13.

Edel Carino and Adonis Macoto also

See MBI on Page 26

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Adonis Macoto, left, makes an acrobatic shot against AON/NJ Pro Plus' Jorge De Guzman during their game in the Shirley's caging on Friday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Koreans show poise in Fearless

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Combatants from Korean Top Team won two of the three featured fights in the main event of Rites of Passage 8: Fearless, showing the CNMI a different, but effective way of winning in the octagon cage.

After seeing their compatriot, Young Nam "The Hippo" Gu, bowed in the ground-and-pound bout, Kang "Dr. Kang" Bum Chang and Hyun Kyu "The Ace" Lim brought their respective fights out of the mat, un-

See KOREANS on Page 26

Korean Top Team's Kang "Dr. Kang" Bum Chang connects on a kick against Fasi "The Quikdraw" Jesse during one of the main events in Rites of Passage 8: Fearless held Saturday at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO